



Guidance for Operators: HAIRDRESSING & BARBERING

HEALTH CONCERN: Equipment /instruments used for hairdressing/barbering may become contaminated with bacteria, fungus, or virus such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. You do not have to see blood or body fluids on instruments for transmission of infection to occur.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Personal Service Settings (PSS) are required to operate in compliance with **Ontario Regulation 136/18: Personal Service Settings**.

Operators and staff of personal service settings are encouraged to review the **Guide to Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Service Settings** from Public Health Ontario to learn more about infection prevention and control practices that reduce the risk of transmission of infections in PSS.

OPERATOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Operator must clean hands before service.
- Practice good personal hygiene.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke during service.

SKIN PREPARATION

- Do not provide service to clients who have cuts, wounds, rashes or visible skin infections within 6 inches of the area that is being worked on.
- Do not provide service to a client with head lice or signs of fungal infection of the scalp or neck. Advise the client to see a health care provider for assessment.

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- Use a sanitary neck strip or a clean towel between the client's skin and the cape. Discard or launder between clients.

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- Use a sanitary neck strip or a clean towel between the client's skin and the cape. Discard or launder between clients.
- Double-dipping is NOT allowed i.e. touching the client with an applicator and then use the same applicator to get more product. The following methods are permitted:
 - o Use containers where product can be squeezed or pumped out.
 - o Use applicators when obtaining products.
 - o Use single use containers.
- Equipment and instruments that cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected between clients must be single use (e.g., foil, paper, shaving blades).
- Straight razors with fixed blades are not recommended. If used, they must be cleaned and sterilized. See [Sterilization Fact Sheet](#).

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Cleaning

- All instruments, equipment and surfaces that require cleaning, disinfection or sterilization **MUST** be completely disassembled first. Items must then be cleaned in warm water with soap or detergent.
- Linens must be laundered after use. There should be an adequate supply available.
- Routine cleaning of walls, floors, ceilings and surfaces are to be maintained.

Disinfection

- All Disinfectants must be made fresh daily or according to manufacturer's instructions. All disinfectants must have a drug identification number (DIN) or a natural product number (NPN) issued by Health Canada.

WASTE DISPOSAL

- Throw waste that has blood and/or body fluids on it in a leak-proof bag.
- Throw away single-use tools and equipment after use.
- Single-use sharps must be thrown out in an approved sharps container which meets the standards of Canadian Standards Association.
- Sharps containers are to be sealed and replaced when the contents reach the fill line marked on the container or when three-quarters full.



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LEVEL	WHEN TO USE	EXAMPLES
Low Level	Equipment and instruments or items that do not directly contact the client or contact only hair or intact skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High touch surfaces e.g. chairs, tables, sinks• Combs and brushes• Re-usable color mixing bowls• Hair scissors• Hair clipper blades• Hair rollers, clips and caps• Crochet hooks
Intermediate Level	Equipment, instruments, or items that are intended to contact only intact skin, but that may accidentally come into contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes or penetrate the skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hair clipper blades*• Hair scissors*• Crochet hooks*
High Level Disinfection	Any surfaces, equipment or tools that may come in contact with blood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A

See **Disinfection Chart** for information on approved disinfectants and contact time.

*This increased level of disinfection is required if instruments nick the skin.

RECORD KEEPING

Client Records

- Premises that offer ONLY hairdressing and barbering services are exempt from requirement to keep client records.

Accidental Blood or Body Fluid Exposures

- PSS are required record all accidental blood or body fluid exposures. Records must include information outlined in the **Accidental Blood Exposure Log**.

- Records must be kept onsite for one year. After the first year, the records must be retained and kept readily available in a secure location for at least two years.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact your area Public Health Inspector at **1-800-922-0096**.

MORE INFORMATION



Southwestern Public Health

St. Thomas Site
519-631-9900

Woodstock Site
519-421-9901

1-800-922-0096 | www.swpublichealth.ca