



Guidance for Operators: MANICURES, PEDICURES & NAIL TREATMENTS

HEALTH CONCERN: Manicures and pedicures can lead to bacterial, fungal, or viral infections such as Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, or Human immunodeficiency virus (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

- Practice good hand hygiene before, during and after service.
- Wash hands if they are visibly soiled.

- Hand sanitizer may be used if hands are not visibly soiled.
- Wear gloves when it is anticipated that hands will be in contact with blood and/or other body fluids or non-intact skin.
 - o E.g., When using foot grater or credo blades.
 - o Wash hands before putting gloves on and after taking them off.
- Operator must not eat, drink or smoke during service.
- Operator should practice good personal hygiene.
- The Health Unit recommends that all operators be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

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SKIN PREPARATION

- Prior to service, clean client's hands and/or feet with soap and water if necessary.
- Examine client's hands/feet prior to service.
 - 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 clients with any fungal ointment or treatment.
- Advise the client to see a health care provider.

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- Equipment and instruments that cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected between clients must be single use. Examples of single use items:
 - Foam or sponge core buffer blocks and files, pumice stones, sanding boards, emery boards etc.
 - Bags used for paraffin wax treatments.
- Paraffin wax treatments must be done so no amount of wax comes into contact with more than one client.
 - Razor blades / credo blades used for pedicures.
- Note that these items must be discarded in a sharps container immediately after use.
 - Styptic products (solid, liquid, powders) and applicators used to apply the products.
- Applicators are not to be re-dipped into the product and are to be discarded after each use (i.e., no double-dipping)

- Multi-use styptic pencils are not to be used, because they may become contaminated with blood.
- Single use items are not to be kept in the PSS for future use on the same client. Equipment and instruments that are sent home with the client cannot be brought back to the premises for reuse.
- All reusable nail service equipment and instruments must be cleaned and disinfected with the appropriate level disinfectant between clients.
- Store multi-use instruments that have been cleaned and disinfected in a clean drawer or container with a lid to prevent contamination.
- Reusable equipment that cannot be cleaned immediately must be stored in a labeled, covered container filled with water with or without detergent.



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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• Callus blade (credo blade) holders• Manicure bowls and trays• Dremel handle• Tweezers for applying nail art• Nail-drying stations• UV and LED curing light
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">• Clippers• Trimmers• Nail clippers, cuticle nippers, cuticle scissors, cuticle cutters etc.• Diamond drill bit for acrylic nails• Reusable metal dremel bit• Foot files with removable adhesive/abrasive stickers• Metal foot files• Metal, diamond or glass nail files• Re-circulating foot tub or footbath<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ SWPH's Foot Bath fact sheet for more information.
High Level Disinfection	Any surfaces, equipment or tools that may come in contact with blood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grater-style foot files

See [Disinfection Chart](#) for information on approved disinfectants and contact time.

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

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CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

Cleaning

- All instruments, equipment and surfaces that require cleaning and disinfection **MUST** be completely disassembled first. Items must then be cleaned in warm water with soap or detergent.
- Linens must be laundered after use and 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 out 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.
- Approved sharps containers must be located in the area that the sharps items are used.

- Sharps containers are to be sealed and replaced when the contents reach the fill line marked on the container or when three-quarters full.

RECORD KEEPING

Client Records

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

High Level Disinfectants

- If using high level disinfectants, PSS are required to record information outlined in the **Disinfection Record Log**.

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**.

Record Retention

- 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