



## Guidance for Operators: WAXING, SUGARING & THREADING

**HEALTH CONCERN:** Hair removal may result in compromised skin and increased risk of mucous membrane exposure, heightening the risk of infection. Infections can be bacterial, fungal, or viral. 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.

- Gloves should be worn for waxing and sugaring. Hands are to be washed prior to putting gloves on and after taking them off.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke during service.
- Operator should practice good personal hygiene.

### 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.

### OPERATOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Wash hands before providing services.

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## SKIN PREPARATION

- Personal service providers should inform clients about the risks of waxing when taking anti-acne medication, as this may increase risk of infection by damaging the skin and potentially removing the epidermis (top layer of the skin).
- Prior to waxing, apply skin antiseptic. Use soap and water to clean the area first if it is visibly soiled. Skin antiseptics include, but is not limited to,
  - Povidone-iodine solution
  - Isopropyl alcohol (50 – 91%)
  - Ethyl alcohol (60 – 95%)
- If applicable, a topical local anesthetic can be used after applying a skin antiseptic.

## INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- Fresh single-use paper liner or clean linen should be placed on the waxing tables/beds between each client.
- All products (e.g., wax, sugar, thread, etc.) must be dispensed in a manner that does not contaminate the remaining portion.
  - Single-use applicators are only to be dipped once into the wax and then discarded after application on the skin. Do not double dip!
- Equipment and instruments that cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected between clients must be single use.
  - Examples of single use items:
    - Eyebrow-threading threads
    - Roll-on wax cartridges

- Single-use PPE
  - Swab/applicators
  - Waxing sticks and strips
  - Roller-head wax applicator cartridges are single-use and must be thrown out after each client. The roller head must be cleaned and then disinfected using an intermediate level disinfectant after each client.
- All reusable instruments must be cleaned and disinfected prior to use.

## 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 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.

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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"><li>• Chairs</li><li>• Tables</li><li>• Beds</li></ul>
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"><li>• Tweezers used to remove hair from the hair follicle</li><li>• Cartridge head for wax rollers etc.</li></ul>
High Level Disinfection	Any surfaces, equipment or tools that may come in contact with blood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tweezers used to expose ingrown hairs.</li></ul>

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

## 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.
- 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

- Before providing a personal service, the PSS operator must obtain and record the client's name and contact information.

### 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**.