

The Importance of Sanitation and Disinfection in the Salon/School

Each client has the potential of carrying some kind of bacterial or viral infection. It is necessary to regularly and consistently take the necessary steps to disinfect and decontaminate implements, linens, and surfaces in the salon. This is an important service that salon owners provide to their clients and to their staff. Think of these practices as “risk elimination”.

Sterilization ➡ Disinfection ➡ Sanitation ➡ The Differences

Sterilization is the destruction of all forms of bacteria, fungi, and viruses. It is not necessary to practice sterilization in a salon atmosphere unless the skin barrier is penetrated or broken by use of a tool or implement.

Disinfection is the process that eliminates many disease producing germs and organisms. The process of disinfection does not eliminate bacterial spores. Spores are the reproductive element and are more resistant. Spores can only be destroyed by sterilization.

Sanitation is the process of making an object clean before disinfecting by means of hot water detergents, antibacterial soaps and sanitizers.

Estheticians need to be concerned about **fungi** (a term for a group of yeasts and molds). Fungi can cause conditions such as **athlete’s foot**. Proper disinfecting of pedicure implements and foot basins can prevent the spread of infection. To simplify, use only stainless steel bowls and implements made of hard non-porous materials when possible.

Hairdressers need to disinfect tools and other implements to prevent the spread of bacteria, plant parasites or fungi that can produce contagious diseases such as ringworm, favus (a skin disease of the scalp). Animal parasites such as head lice and itch mites cause scalp infections such as pediculosis and scabies.

Make Up Artists need to be concerned with preventing cross contamination, infection and disease.

Nail Technicians need to be concerned with fungi and bacterial diseases and the proper sanitation and disinfection procedures that help prevent the spread of diseases from one client to another.

All foot spa systems must be drained, cleaned and disinfected between customers and at the end of each day.

How to Disinfect Implements

Implements such as scissors, combs, brushes, nail clippers, and files need to be **disinfected after each use**. (1) Sanitize the implements. (2) Place in clean disinfecting solution (see the list of approved disinfectants). (3) Submerge implements completely for 10 – 15 minutes or according to manufacturers’ directions. (4) Remove items by using basket lift or thongs. (5) rinse, dry and store in a clean, disinfected, dry, and covered container.

Always follow the manufactures directions.

Disinfectants are harmful to the skin and hair; proper removal from solution and rinsing is vital.

Brushes must be disinfected after each use, to accommodate all services during the day. It may be necessary to invest in a sufficient number of brushes for busy days. This allows time for disinfected brushes to dry. This applies to hair brushes and brushes used in makeup applications. Salons with numerous operators may need to consider a central collection procedure for dirty brushes and implements.

It may be useful to use disposable, single use items for esthetic services. Sponges, tissue, cotton, orange wood sticks, files, emery boards, applicators must be discarded after one use.

How to Disinfect a Surface

- (1) Clean with suitable cleaner.
- (2) Apply disinfectant.
- (3) Leave disinfectant on for at least 10 minutes.
- (4) Wipe dry with clean damp cloth or paper towel.

Approved Disinfectants

Only disinfectants approved by the Association may be used in esthetic and hair salons. The Association will consider adding disinfectants to the approved list if the product has a D.I.N. (Drug Identification Number – Canadian), or EPA registered (Environmental Protection Agency). Many products will list the same ingredients or claim to kill bacteria and viruses. However, not all products have gone through the rigorous, independent testing required to verify this fact. Products that have a D.I.N. or EPA designation have been independently tested by government agencies.

If you wish to use a product that is not currently on the approved list you must forward the MS DATA sheet – showing the D.I.N. or EPA designation to CANS for approval. Please allow 6 – 12 weeks for approval.

It is important that disinfectants be mixed according to the manufacturers' directions to ensure that the solution is effective and will not cause damage to tools and implements.

Disinfectants Approved by the Association

Marvicide I
Marvicide II
Barbicide and Barbicide plus
Virox 5
Ultracare (Ultronics)
BM 28
Gluterwate
Swipes (Germiphene)
Gamut
Accel
Tor
Biosurf
Metricide
Percept General Viruicidal Disinfectant Cleaner
BisSon Din # 02208709
BioSurf: Din # 02209756
Sahara: Din # 02248365

G-Nol
Viralex
Super Germiphene Concentrate
Germiphene Concentrate
Percept Wipes
Percept RTU
Quick Fill 920
Buckeye Mint Quat Germicidal
Viralex T36
A3 Liquid
Biotext
Buckeye Sanicare Quat 256
Cavicide
BioMers: Din # 02210711
BioText: Din # 02209640
Gloves Off: Din # 02333774

The following products are sanitizers only and must not be considered or used as a disinfectant: Germxtra, Genie Plus, Citrus II, Glass Bead Sterilizers, Armor Antibacterial Hand Soap.

Ultra-Violet Sanitizers are useful for storing disinfected brushes and implements but **CAN NOT BE USED** as a tool for disinfection.

From Your Client's Eyes

Take a moment to walk through your salon and try to see it through the eyes of your clients. Sit in the styling chair and look around. Do the surfaces on the workstations have a buildup of hair and styling products? Are the shampoo area and towels free of stains and mildew? Walk into the esthetic service area, thinking about the services the clients will receive there. Are the linens sparkling bright? Will the client be comfortable lying on the facial bed?

Following proper sanitation and disinfecting practices will promote your salon to your clients as a clean, safe environment in which to have services performed.

A Good Investment of Resources (time and supplies) Pays Off

We often hear that the inspectors have dropped by at the end of a busy day or the morning after a busy day when the staff worked late and were tired. We like to use the analogy of restaurant services. Even though a restaurant may have been extremely busy and the wait staff exhausted, the tables still have to be cleared and cleaned, the floor has to be washed, and the kitchen properly cleaned in order to serve clients **safely** when the restaurant opens the next day. There has to be an adequate supply of dishes so that even though the dishwasher may run constantly, there are enough clean dishes for each new client. The restaurant cannot open again until this happens. The same is true in your salon. The salon needs to be prepared at the end of each day in order to be ready for your clients in the morning. An investment into an adequate supply of brushes, combs, and implements will get you through a busy day. Your clients will notice the difference and your investment return will be a full appointment book with a waiting list.