

## Manicure and Pedicure Services: What you need to know as a Nail Salon Operator

### Why is this information useful to you?

- to meet health requirements
- to help protect both your health and your clients
- to help you keep a clean salon that can attract repeat business

### What are the health requirements in BC?

In Fraser Health, nail salons are subject to regular inspections by the health department. Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) conduct inspections of nail salons to ensure your salon meets health requirements. EHOs also follow up public complaints on a facility.

During an inspection Environmental Health Officers will be looking to see if you:

- clean and disinfect work areas in your salon
- clean and disinfect equipment and instruments
- practice good personal hygiene

The Personal Service Establishments Regulation (BC Reg 188/88) and Guidelines for Personal Service Establishments outline the standards for cleaning, disinfecting and hygiene practices to help you lower health risks.

*For a copy of the Personal Service Establishment Regulation and Guidelines visit: [www.fraserhealth.ca/pse](http://www.fraserhealth.ca/pse).*

### What are the health risks if you don't follow the requirements?

Many of these procedures and/or treatments provided in nail salons can lead to health risks for both you and your clients if proper infection control practices are not followed.

Bacterial, viral and fungal infections can be transmitted from:

- unclean nail instruments/reuse of single use instruments,
- unclean work surfaces and
- poor personal hygiene.



Specific health risks associated with manicures and pedicures can include:

- infections caused by mycobacteria and staphylococcus bacteria,
- fungal infections caused by yeast and
- viral diseases such as Hepatitis B and C.

*Toenails are more commonly infected by fungi than fingernails. More than 90% of nail infections involve toenails.*

### Your clients expect a clean salon

Your business may be affected by "word of mouth" advertising.

- Impact can be negative if a client has a bad experience or gets an infection from a nail service provided at your salon and tells others about it.
- Impact can be positive if a client is happy with your service and recommends it to others.
- Clients are concerned about their health and that you follow proper practices.

In addition, health inspection results are posted on the Fraser Health website as public information.

- Clients can use inspection results to make an informed decision to choose a salon for their nail treatment services.
- To view the latest Fraser Health inspection reports visit: [www.fraserhealth.ca/pse](http://www.fraserhealth.ca/pse).

## Checklist: For Nail Salon Operators

Use the following checklist to:

- prevent health risks and
  - help you meet the Personal Service Establishments Regulation and Guideline requirements.
- Construction of the salon must meet local health department requirements. For example:
    - *Ensure a hand washing station with hot and cold running water is provided.*
    - *All work surfaces should be made of materials that are easy to clean.*
    - *Carpet is not allowed in work areas.*
    - *All plumbing fixtures must meet BC Building Code and municipal requirements.*
    - *Premise should be separate from incompatible business/activities.*
  - Follow good personal hygiene practices.
    - *Provide liquid soap and use single towels for hand washing.*
    - *Wash your hands before and after providing treatment to every client.*
    - *Throw away single use gloves after each treatment. Glove use does not replace hand washing.*
    - *Do not eat, drink or smoke at your work station.*
  - Ensure the nail work stations are clean, well lit and free of dust and nail clippings.
    - *Work contact surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected after each client.*
  - Examine the client's nails, fingers and/or toes for signs of infection. Do not provide service to a client that has signs of an infection.
    - *Signs of an infection may include redness, pus, discoloration of nail (i.e. yellow, green, black in colour).*
    - *Advise client to consult with a doctor if you see these signs.*
  - Use single use (disposable) items wherever possible.
    - *Throw away single use (disposable) items such as emery boards, orange sticks, and nail files after each client.*
    - *Some nail implements and instruments are reusable; ensure they are clean and disinfected after each client.*
  - Dispense products such as creams, lotions and paraffin into a separate container for each client or dispense using single use applicators.
    - *Double dipping is not allowed. For example, do not reuse single use applicator sticks as they can contaminate products.*
  - Use the correct disinfectant for nail implements and work surfaces.
    - *Refer to Guidelines for Personal Service Establishments to help you decide the level of disinfection and the type of disinfection product that is required for each of your tools/implements.*
    - *Always follow manufacturer's directions when using cleaning and disinfection products.*
    - *Consult your local Environmental Health Officer for information regarding disinfection requirements.*
  - Clean and disinfect footbaths between clients.
    - *Always follow manufacturer's directions for cleaning and disinfecting footbaths/pedicure chairs.*
  - Use clean, freshly laundered towels/linens or single use paper towels for each client.
  - Throw away waste properly. It is good practice to:
    - *Put chemical soaked gauze pads/cotton balls in a sealed bag before throwing into garbage receptacle.*
    - *Throw away biomedical waste in an approved container.*
  - Ensure washrooms are clean and maintained.
    - *Provide liquid soap and use single towels for hand washing.*
    - *Note that additional information may be requested by your local Environmental Health Officer.*

For further information, or if you have any questions, contact your local Environmental Health Services office.

Website: [www.fraserhealth.ca/healthprotection](http://www.fraserhealth.ca/healthprotection)