

# Beauty Equipment

## Environmental Health Cleaning/Sterilising Schedule Guide

A number of beauty practices can result in the spread of infection or blood-borne viruses, particularly when instruments are inadequately cleaned or sterilised between client sessions, handled unhygienically or used inappropriately. The following table provides a guide on cleaning and sterilisation requirements for equipment commonly used in the beauty industry, which will assist in achieving compliance with the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987.

	Equipment	Reason/Risk	When	How	Additional notes
High Risk	Re-usable instruments Tattoo Gun	Potential for skin infections or for blood-borne virus transmission	After each client	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth. Package with chemical indicator and seal. Sterilise.	Note: Some parts of the tattoo gun are not immersible. Use a lint free cloth for all stages of the cleaning process. Store appropriately.
	Single-use needles	Potential for skin infections or for blood-borne virus transmission	Dispose of after each client	Dispose of into sharps container.	
	Tweezers Probes	Potential for skin infections or for blood-borne virus transmission	After each client	Wash in warm running water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth. Sterilise if contaminated.	Use a lint free cloth for all stages of the cleaning process. Store appropriately.

High Risk	Lasers	Potential for skin infections or for blood-borne virus transmission	After each client	Wash in warm running water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth. Sterilise or disinfect laser parts as appropriate.	Use a lint free cloth for all stages of the cleaning process. Store appropriately.
Intermediate Risk	Face Brushes – Make-up – Eyebrow – Other  Face sponges	Risk of infection if previous client has skin lesions or infection.	After each client	Rinse free of lotions, creams and make-up. Wash in warm water & detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry thoroughly.	Note: Brushes & plastic items will not withstand the sterilisation process. Do not dry these items in an Ultraviolet Light (UV) cabinet as they become brittle with a shortened life.
	Non-immersible equipment: Tattoo guns  Electrical items  Reusable muscle stimulator electrodes	Potential for infection	After each client	Wipe over with cloth dampened Sterilise or dispose of if blood is drawn. Dispose of blades into sharps container.	
	Combs Hair brushes Hairnets Neck brushes Ear caps Hair pins/clips	Potential for infection or infestation	After each client and when dropped on the floor	Use lint-free cloth to remove hair. Wash in warm and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint-free cloth.	<i>Note:</i> Brushes and plastic items will not withstand the sterilisation process. Dispose of any piece of equipment that pierces the client's skin into a sharps container.

<b>Intermediate Risk</b>	Nail clippers / scissors	Potential for infection	After each client and when dropped on the floor	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth. Dispose of or sterilise if contaminated.	Become high risk if the penetrate or abrade the skin.
	Cuticle sticks				Note: Plastic equipment may not withstand the sterilisation process.
	Nail burrs				Use single use where possible
	Nail files				
<b>Low Risk</b>	Eyelash curlers	Potential for contamination	After each client	Wash in warm and detergent.	May be disinfected in addition to cleaning
	Nails brushes			Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth. Dispose of or sterilise if contaminated.	Become high risk if the penetrate or abrade the skin.
	Nail buffers				Note: Plastic equipment may not withstand the sterilisation process.
	Emery boards				Note: Some buffers (and handles) may be washable (for example, chamois) – see the manufacturer’s instructions on cleaning and drying these items. Other buffers should be single use and disposed of after each client. Emery boards should be single use and disposed of after each client as they cannot be washed and dried.

Low Risk	Hand bowls	Potential for contamination	After each client	Wash in warm and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint-free cloth.	
	Foot baths	Potential for contamination	After each client	Wash in warm and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint-free cloth. Use chlorine-based disinfectant (bleach) to disinfect, rinse in hot water and dry with lint free cloth.	Note: Cleaning may not be sufficient to remove some fungal microorganisms therefore disinfection after each client is essential particularly if the foot bath is of the 'spa' type.
	Single use Applicators	Potential for infection.	After each use	Dispose of into a clinical or related waste container.	Use once only.
	Bottles/sprays/pump dispensers: – Liquid soap - Water - Lotions -Creams - Gels	Potential for contamination	When empty	Wash in warm water & detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry thoroughly with lint free cloth before refilling.	These should never be 'topped up'. Manufacturer's containers should be discarded when empty.
	Dye mixing bowls	Potential for contamination.	After each client	Wash in warm and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint-free cloth.	Prevent residual dyes being mixed into new preparations.

<b>Low Risk</b>	Wax thermometers  Wax pots Reusable wax Applicators – Metal – Plastic	Potential for skin infections or for blood-borne virus transmission	After each client	Remove wax using appropriate solvent for the type of wax. Wash in warm and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint-free cloth.	Wax applicators should be sterilised after cleaning if: - Blood is drawn during the waxing process - The wax pot is used for more than one client – Re-dipping of applicators into the same wax pot occurs.
	Nail varnish brushes	Potential for contamination.	After each client	Remove varnish using appropriate solvent. Wash in warm water & detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth.	Use single use brushes or varnish pots.
	Linen – Towels – Gowns – Hair covers – Hair bands – Other	Potential for infection.	After each client	Wash in hot water (70-80°C) and detergent. Dry in open air or in clothes dryer on hot setting. Dry as required by type of material.	Place into washable leak-proof linen bin before laundering.
	Capes	Risk of infection if previous client has neck lesions or infection.			Use a clean towel or paper tape around neck.
	Client couch/chair	Potential for contamination and prevents dust accumulating.	After each client	Wash with warm water & detergent. Dry thoroughly with lint free cloth.	
	Equipment trolley	Prevents dust accumulating and contaminating clean equipment.	Weekly	Use damp cloth to remove dust. Wash with warm water & detergent. Dry thoroughly with cloth before refilling.	Ensure items are in closed containers. Cover when not in use. Use a lint free cloth for cleaning.