

Body Art Equipment

Environmental Health Cleaning/Sterilising Schedule Guide

A number of body art 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 body art industry, which will assist in achieving compliance with the Public and Environmental Health Act 1987.

	Equipment	Reason/Risk	When	How	Additional notes
High Risk	Single-use razors	Potential for skin infections or for blood-borne virus transmission	After each client	Dispose of into a sharps container.	
	Single-use needles	Potential for skin infections or for blood-borne virus transmission	After each client	Dispose of into a sharps container.	
	Single-use rubber bands	Potential for skin infections or for blood-borne virus transmission	After each client	Dispose of into clinical and related waste container.	Rubber bands weaken through multiple sterilisations.
	Reusable instruments Jewellery (such as needle bar and tube, clamps, ring closers) 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 a chemical indicator and seal. Sterilise.	Note: Some jewellery will not withstand the sterilisation process. Some parts of the tattoo gun are not immersible. Use a lint-free cloth for all stages of the cleaning process.

Intermediate Risk	Shaving brushes (if used)	Risk of infection if previous client has skin lesions or infection.	After each client	Rinse free of hair and shaving cream. Wash in warm water & detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry thoroughly.	Note: Brushes & plastic items will not withstand the sterilisation process.
	Non-immersible equipment Electrical items	Potential for infection	After each client	Wipe over with cloth dampened in warm water and detergent. Rinse by wiping with cloth dampened in hot water. Dry thoroughly. Wipe over with cloth dampened with 70% alcohol solution and allow to dry.	Use a lint-free cloth for all stages of the cleaning process.
Low Risk	Clippers	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.	Clippers become high risk if the penetrate or abrade the skin. Note: Plastic clipper equipment may not withstand the sterilisation process.
	Single-use ink Wells/caps	Potential for infection	After each use	Dispose of into clinical and related waste container.	Use once only. Some inkwells are reusable. See above note on reusable instruments for cleaning. Single-use inkwells are preferred.
	Single-use applicators	Potential for infection	After each use	Dispose of into clinical and related waste container.	Use once only.

Low Risk	Single-use skin markers	Potential for infection	After each use	Dispose of into clinical and 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.
	Shaving bowls				
	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.

Information taken from Health Guidelines for Personal Care and Body Art Industries, Victorian Government Publishing Service.