



Skin Penetration

It is essential that all hairdressers and skin penetration operators know and understand the health implications of the procedures they carry out and the precautions they must take to minimise the risk to health. Organisms that can cause potentially serious infections such as Staphylococcal infections, HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C may be transmitted where appropriate precautions are not taken.

Cleaning & Sterilisation

All surfaces throughout the premises and items that come into contact with skin require cleaning.

Cleaning removes foreign matter and reduces the number of micro-organisms but may not necessarily kill all of them. Common cleaners used include sodium hypochlorite, 70% ethyl or 70% isopropyl alcohol, chlorhexidine, and povidone-iodine. It is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions when using such products. The following demonstrates the correct cleaning process:

1. **Rinse** all equipment in warm water (15–30°C) to remove foreign matter.
2. **Wash** the equipment in a sink filled with warm water and a mild alkaline detergent. The use of a clean scourer pad or brush is encouraged.
3. **Rinse** all equipment thoroughly in hot running water.
4. **Dry** with a lint free cloth or air dry.
5. **Store** in a clean, dry, dust free environment.

Sterilisation uses steam under pressure to render equipment free of all forms of micro-organisms including bacterial spores. A steam steriliser (autoclave) is required for this purpose and must be used on all reusable skin penetrating equipment contaminated with blood and body fluids. It is essential that implements are cleaned as soon as possible after use, then sterilised before using on another person. A log book must be maintained for all items that are sterilised, documenting the time and date; the length of time held at maximum pressure and temperature; and maximum pressure and temperature achieved. Once sterilised, equipment must remain stored in the sterilised packaging to prevent contamination and opened in front of the client.

Ultraviolet (UV) cabinets do not sterilise equipment.

Personal Hygiene

Hand washing is essential for preventing the spread of infections from either the client or the operator. Hands should be washed thoroughly with soap and warm running water for at least 1 minute when commencing an aseptic procedure and then dried with a single use towel. Hands should be washed:

- before and after contact with each client;
- where there are multiple procedures performed on a client;
- before resuming a procedure if interrupted;
- immediately prior to putting on and removing disposable gloves;
- after touching the nose, mouth or handling a nasal tissue or handkerchief.



To ensure personal hygiene is kept at a satisfactory level the following procedures are recommended:

- Cover cuts and abrasions with a water resistant dressing and regularly change it when necessary;
- Wear disposable gloves to prevent contact with blood, mucous membranes, open wounds or broken skin;

- Wear clean washable clothing that is changed when soiled; the use of aprons or other protective clothing is encouraged when there is a risk of splash from bodily fluids.
- Take extra care when washing hands if jewellery is worn. Jewellery can act as a trap for micro-organisms and may make thorough cleaning of hands difficult.

Waste Management

Waste disposal should be designed and positioned in very close proximity to work stations. A suitable rubbish bin must be provided for the containment of soiled tissues, paper, swabs, disposable products and other wastes. Any rotting, blood-soiled or contaminated waste must be contained in wrapping or sealed in a disposable container prior to disposal as general waste. This type of waste should also be disposed of as often as necessary to prevent a risk to health.

Single-use needles, scalpel blades, razor blades, etc. must be disposed of in a suitable sharps container and disposed of via a licensed contractor.

Please be aware that sharps containers can be purchased and disposed of at Council.

Premises

A work area includes workbenches, sinks and other equipment necessary to carry out procedures. Premises undertaking skin penetration require a designated area for processing equipment.

Work Areas Should Have:

- good lighting and ventilation;
- adequate storage space for processing equipment;
- ample bench space to separate clean and dirty equipment;
- a flow pattern to prevent recontamination of processed equipment; and
- separate sinks for hand washing and processing equipment.

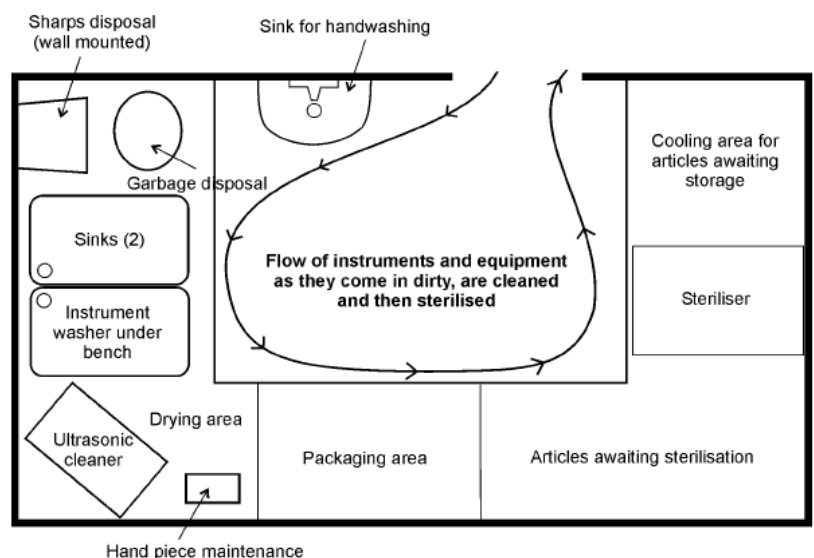
All surfaces including floors, walls, ceilings, shelving, fixtures, fittings and other furniture in treatment and processing areas should be constructed of suitable materials that are smooth and impervious and easy to clean.

It is important that a permanent designated hand washing facility is available at all times and adequately stocked with a continuous supply of soap and paper towel.

Towels, Wraps, Garments and Fabrics

- **Clean** linen should be used on each client.
- **Clean** linen should be stored in a designated cupboard away from other materials.
- **Soiled** linen should be placed into a container separate from the clean linen and laundered using hot soapy water.

Suggested layout for a reprocessing area



NOTES:

- 1 Arrow direction indicates the flow of instruments and equipment from dirty-clean-sterile.
- 2 Personnel working in the processing area should wash their hands:
 - (a) after handling soiled items and removal of gloves;
 - (b) before handling clean items; and
 - (c) before handling sterile items.