

Hairdressing Equipment

Environmental Health Cleaning Schedule Guide

A number of hairdressing practices can result in the spread of infection or blood-borne viruses, particularly when instruments are inadequately cleaned between client sessions, handled unhygienically or used inappropriately. The following table provides a guide on cleaning requirements for equipment commonly used in the hairdressing 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 blood-borne virus transmission	After each client	Dispose of into a sharps container	
	Safety razors	Potential for skin infections or blood-borne virus transmission	After each client	Dispose of blade into sharps container. Wash handle in warm water & detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with a lint-free cloth. If contaminated, sterilise or dispose of into a sharps container.	
	Electric razors	Potential for skin infections or blood-borne virus transmission	Do not use		<i>Note:</i> Electric razors cannot withstand immersion or sterilisation

Intermediate Risk	Shaving brushes	Potential for infection if previous client has facial skin lesions or infection	After each client	Rinse free of hair and shaving cream. Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry thoroughly.	<i>Note:</i> Brushes and plastic items will not withstand the sterilisation process.
	Scissors Clippers	Potential for infection or infestation	After each client	Use lint-free cloth to remove hair. Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint-free cloth.	Scissors become high risk if they penetrate or abrade the skin <i>Note:</i> Plastic clipper attachments will not withstand the sterilisation process.
Low Risk	Haircutting razors	Potential for infection or infestation	After each client	Sterilise or dispose of if blood is drawn. Dispose of blades into sharps container.	
	Combs Hair brushes	Potential for infection or infestation	After each client and when dropped on the floor	Use lint-free cloth to remove hair. Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water.	<i>Note:</i> Brushes and plastic items will not withstand the sterilisation process.
	Hairnets Neck brushes			Dry with lint-free cloth.	Dispose of any piece of equipment that pierces the client's skin into a sharps container.
	Ear caps				
	Hair pins/clips				

Low Risk	Rollers – Regular – Hot – Hot tongs – Crimpers	Potential for infection or infestation	After each client and when dropped on the floor	Use lint-free cloth to remove hair. Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint-free cloth.	Store in covered containers.
	Bottles – Shampoo – Conditioner Shaving bowls	Potential for contamination	When empty	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry thoroughly with lint-free cloth before refilling.	Never top up.
	Dye mixing bowls	Potential for contamination	When empty	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint-free cloth.	Prevent residual dyes from being mixed into new preparations.
	Capes/wraps	Potential for infection if previous client has facial skin lesions or infection	After each client unless a clean towel or paper cape is used around neck	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry according to type of cape around neck.	Use a clean towel or paper cape around neck.
	Equipment trolley	Prevention of dust and hairs from accumulating or contaminating clean equipment	Weekly	Use lint-free cloth to remove hair. Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry thoroughly with lint-free cloth before refilling.	Ensure items such as rollers are in closed containers. Cover when not in use.

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