

Further Guidelines continued...

- Provide clients with a written aftercare advice leaflet.
- Use metal rubbish bins with foot operated lids. This will reduce the amount of harmful chemicals released into the air. The bins should be emptied daily.
- Avoid using MMA. MMA has been linked to skin irritation, and can cause respiratory sensitisation. Although EMA is not hazard free and still needs to be used carefully, it is a safer chemical to use.
- When using any chemicals ensure that if they are decanted that they are put into the smallest possible vessel. For instance, when using EMA, use a small thimble-sized container with a narrow opening rather than a tea cup or other large container. This will ensure that the minimum amount of chemicals are released into the air and makes the area easier to ventilate and in turn can protect the nail technician and client.
- Keep chemicals in closed containers until needed and ensure that all containers are marked. Ensure that the supplier of the chemicals provides you with safety data sheets for the chemicals you use (they are free), and use them to carry out a risk assessment.
- This is not an exhaustive list, but by following the advice in this leaflet you will be helping to ensure a safe and health business for staff and clients.



Health and Safety Advice and Guidance for Nail and Beauty Salons

If you would like further information please contact the Health and Safety Team using the details below.

Tel: **01926 456717**
Email: **HCPHealthandSafety@warwickdc.gov.uk**
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Nail salons and cosmetic nail treatments are now a common sight on the high street. However, there are some health and safety hazards which all nail technicians and clients should be aware of.

Main Hazards

Chemical

e.g. Inhalation, Ingestion, Skin Contact

Biological

e.g. Spreading Bacterial, Viral and Fungal Infections.

Controls

- Prohibit smoking, eating and drinking in the salon.
- Treat the natural nail and cuticle carefully to avoid infection. Ensure that staff are suitably trained for the work they are carrying out, for instance the NVQ/SVQ level 3 or Diploma in Nail Services, or Advanced Nail Techniques. A general Beauty Therapy qualification may also be suitable as long as the topics covered include safe working practices with regards to nails. Product placement or basic trade courses are rarely a substitute for proper training.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully. Some chemicals require greater protection than others. Protective equipment is not a replacement for safer chemicals however.
- Record a relevant history for the client. It is important to ask the right questions before starting work to ensure that there is a reduced risk of cross contamination.

Questions you should ask...

- Has the client had a history of any skin conditions such as dermatitis or eczema?
- Has the client got a history of allergies?
- Is the client currently undergoing chemotherapy or radiation treatment?
- Are the clients nails and skin in good condition?
- Is the client pregnant? (Pregnant clients and workers may be at greater risk from chemicals used in applying acrylic nails).
- Does the client have an existing medical condition, e.g. infection, blood disease, heart disease?

The above list is not exhaustive and the questions which you need to ask may vary depending on the types of chemicals used and the procedures carried out. However, it is an essential stage of the process. It may be tempting to simply serve the client without checking, but if cross contamination occurred the results could be costly. Bad publicity and the lack of repeat business could be devastating. If a client is unsuitable for treatment then they should NOT be treated! If in doubt, you should advise the client to seek expert medical opinion before commencing work.



Further Guidelines

- Any equipment used which comes into direct contact with the nail or skin should be single use and disposable or specific to the client. This would include any nail files, boards, etc.
- Equipment such as nail clippers should be effectively cleaned/sanitized between clients.
- You should ensure that both the nail technician and the client thoroughly wash their hands and use hand sanitizers prior to treatment.
- Use ventilated treatment tables which vent to the outside. These can reduce the exposure to harmful dust and chemicals. Ventilated tables will be fitted with filters which will need replacing according to the manufacturer's instructions to ensure that they remain effective.
- In addition, the ventilation of the salon in general should be adequate. General ventilation is best if you have a through flow from front to back of the premises.
- The treatment table should be cleaned between use. Follow the manufacturer's advice on the proper cleaning of the table. Ensure any towels that are used are replaced between clients.
- Avoid the use of nail drills. They can increase the risk of infection and can cause damage to the clients natural nails. The use of Ethyl Methacrylate (EMA) instead of Methyl Methacrylate (MMA) can reduce the likelihood of needing to use a drill. Where a drill has to be used, the parts which come into contact with skin or natural nail should be single use or sterilised between clients.