

Hygiene and Safety in Barbers and Hairdressers

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It shall be the duty of every employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment who may be affected thereby are not thereby exposed to risks to their health or safety.

Health and Safety etc Act 1974

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Standard hygiene rules to be followed:



Hand Hygiene

Barbers/hairdressers should wash and sanitise their hands before and after each client to prevent the spread of germs.



Tools

Using the same tools and equipment on multiple clients can lead to cross contamination.

Tools should be cleaned and sanitised between each client where applicable and in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

Barbers and Hairdressers have a duty of care to use tools which are properly maintained and sanitised and use them in a way which is safe and does not cause injury.



Chairs

It is good practice for chairs to be cleaned and sanitised after every client to maintain a clean and hygienic environment for customers and employees.

Patch Testing

Patch testing is an essential safety measure that must be carried out on your clients before the use of hair dyes/colours/highlights including use on facial hair.

The purpose of this is to prevent the occurrence of an allergic reaction on the client, which in some cases can cause serious harm. Even if a client frequently has colour services at other salons, it is important that you still do a patch test, as ingredients can vary from product to product. It is also important that client records are kept such as name, service and dates where hair dyes/colours are used.

The ingredient in hair dye that is most often responsible for reactions is Paraphenylenediamine (PPD).

Although this can be found in all colours, it is more prevalent in black hair dyes and colours. This can be found on the ingredients list on the hair dye packaging.



Foil Shavers

Foil shavers are often used for a skinfade haircut, with some barbers saying upto 70% of their clients are now asking for this style.

However, where foil shavers are used, there can be a risk of catching ringworm and folliculitis due to inadequate cleaning of the equipment.

Since foil clippers give such a close cut, it takes hair in through the clipper head and therefore requires a more detailed and thorough clean. It is recommended that between each client you follow the disinfecting tools step by step below.



Disinfecting tools step-by-step



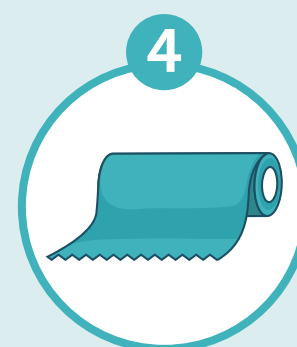
1
Turn off/unplug any electrical equipment. Brush off any hair and debris from the tools.



2
Clean the tools with warm soapy water and rinse (if waterproof). If not waterproof, then use alcohol wipes or similar and always follow the manufacturers' instructions.



3
Soak any tools in a suitable disinfectant solution for the recommended duration stated on the label.



4
Dry the tools with a suitable and clean cloth e.g. blue roll.