



## Guidance for Operators: HAIRDRESSING & BARBERING

**HEALTH CONCERN:** Equipment /instruments used for hairdressing/barbering may become contaminated with bacteria, fungus, or virus such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. You do not have to see blood or body fluids on instruments for transmission of infection to occur.

### LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Personal Service Settings (PSS) are required to operate in compliance with **Ontario Regulation 136/18: Personal Service Settings**.

Operators and staff of personal service settings are encouraged to review the **Guide to Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Service Settings** from Public Health Ontario to learn more about infection prevention and control practices that reduce the risk of transmission of infections in PSS.

### OPERATOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Operator must clean hands before service.
- Practice good personal hygiene.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke during service.

### SKIN PREPARATION

- Do not provide service to clients who have cuts, wounds, rashes or visible skin infections within 6 inches of the area that is being worked on.
- Do not provide service to a client with head lice or signs of fungal infection of the scalp or neck. Advise the client to see a health care provider for assessment.

### INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- Use a sanitary neck strip or a clean towel between the client's skin and the cape. Discard or launder between clients.

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## INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- Use a sanitary neck strip or a clean towel between the client's skin and the cape. Discard or launder between clients.
- Double-dipping is NOT allowed i.e. touching the client with an applicator and then use the same applicator to get more product. The following methods are permitted:
  - o Use containers where product can be squeezed or pumped out.
  - o Use applicators when obtaining products.
  - o Use single use containers.
- Equipment and instruments that cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected between clients must be single use (e.g., foil, paper, shaving blades).
- Straight razors with fixed blades are not recommended. If used, they must be cleaned and sterilized. See [Sterilization Fact Sheet](#).

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

### Cleaning

- All instruments, equipment and surfaces that require cleaning, disinfection or sterilization MUST be completely disassembled first. Items must then be cleaned in warm water with soap or detergent.
- Linens must be laundered after use. There should be an adequate supply available.
- Routine cleaning of walls, floors, ceilings and surfaces are to be maintained.

### Disinfection

- All Disinfectants must be made fresh daily or according to manufacturer's instructions. All disinfectants must have a drug identification number (DIN) or a natural product number (NPN) issued by Health Canada.

## WASTE DISPOSAL

- Throw waste that has blood and/or body fluids on it in a leak-proof bag.
- Throw away single-use tools and equipment after use.
- Single-use sharps must be thrown out in an approved sharps container which meets the standards of Canadian Standards Association.
- Sharps containers are to be sealed and replaced when the contents reach the fill line marked on the container or when three-quarters full.



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LEVEL	WHEN TO USE	EXAMPLES
Low Level	Equipment and instruments or items that do not directly contact the client or contact only hair or intact skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High touch surfaces e.g. chairs, tables, sinks</li> <li>• Combs and brushes</li> <li>• Re-usable color mixing bowls</li> <li>• Hair scissors</li> <li>• Hair clipper blades</li> <li>• Hair rollers, clips and caps</li> <li>• Crochet hooks</li> </ul>
Intermediate Level	Equipment, instruments, or items that are intended to contact only intact skin, but that may accidentally come into contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes or penetrate the skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hair clipper blades*</li> <li>• Hair scissors*</li> <li>• Crochet hooks*</li> </ul>
High Level Disinfection	Any surfaces, equipment or tools that may come in contact with blood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>

See [Disinfection Chart](#) for information on approved disinfectants and contact time.

\*This increased level of disinfection is required if instruments nick the skin.

## RECORD KEEPING

### Client Records

- Premises that offer ONLY hairdressing and barbering services are exempt from requirement to keep client records.

### Accidental Blood or Body Fluid Exposures

- PSS are required record all accidental blood or body fluid exposures. Records must include information outlined in the [Accidental Blood Exposure Log](#).

- Records must be kept onsite for one year. After the first year, the records must be retained and kept readily available in a secure location for at least two years.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact your area Public Health Inspector at **1-800-922-0096**.

## MORE INFORMATION



### Southwestern Public Health

**St. Thomas Site**  
519-631-9900

**Woodstock Site**  
519-421-9901

1-800-922-0096 | [www.swpublichealth.ca](http://www.swpublichealth.ca)