



Guide to cleaning and disinfecting equipment for the body art, beauty and nail industries

For further reference on the cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation of used items, see *AS/NZS 4815:2001 Office-based, health-care facilities not involved in complex patient procedures and processes – Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment*. It provides clear instructions for all steps in the processing of reusable high, intermediate and low risk instruments.

For body art, it is important to keep accurate records of every body piercing and procedure for each client. Accurate and detailed records are valuable to the body artist if there is any infection or possibility of a blood-borne virus transmission with the client.

High risk beauty therapy equipment

After each client, clean and disinfect, or dispose of these items, as per the following advice.

High risk

Equipment	Potential health risk	Actions required
Reusable instruments	Skin infections	Wash in warm water and detergent.
Tattoo guns	Spreading blood-borne viruses (BBVs)	Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth. Package with chemical indicator and seal. Sterilise.
Single use needles	Skin infections Spreading blood-borne viruses (BBVs)	Dispose of into sharps container.
Tweezers, probes, scissors, any other reusable instruments	Skin infections Spreading blood-borne viruses (BBVs)	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth. Sterilise if contaminated.
Single-use razors	Skin infections Spreading blood-borne viruses (BBVs)	Dispose of it into sharps container.

Equipment	Potential health risk	Actions required
Single-use rubber bands	Skin infections Spreading blood-borne viruses (BBVs)	Dispose of it into a clinical waste container.

Intermediate risk beauty therapy equipment

After each client, clean and disinfect, or dispose of these items, as per the following advice.

Intermediate risk

Equipment	Potential health risk	Actions required
Face brushes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make-up • Eyebrow • Other 	Skin infection if previous client has skin lesions or infection.	Rinse free of lotions, creams and make-up.
Face sponges		Wash in warm water and detergent.
Shaving brushes		Rinse in hot running water.
Equipment that is not immersible:	Infection	Dry thoroughly.
Tattoo guns		Wipe over with cloth dampened in warm water and detergent.
Electrical items		Rinse by wiping with cloth dampened in hot water.
Reusable stimulator electrodes		Dry thoroughly.
		Wipe over with cloth dampened with 70 per cent alcohol solution and allow to dry.

Low risk beauty therapy equipment

After each client, clean and disinfect, or dispose of these items, as per the following advice.

Low risk

Equipment	Potential health risk	Actions required
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Equipment	Potential health risk	Actions required
Nail clippers/scissors Cuticle sticks Nail burrs Nail files	Potential for infection	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth. Dispose of or sterilise if contaminated.
Single use skin markers Cotton thread (for threading)	Skin infection	Dispose into clinical waste.
Eyelash curlers Nail brushes Nail buffers Emery boards	Infection	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth. Dispose of or sterilise if contaminated.
Foot baths	Contamination	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth. Use chlorine –based disinfectant (bleach) to disinfect, rinse in hot water and dry with lint free cloth.
Dye mixing bowls	Contamination	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry thoroughly with lint free cloth before refilling.
Wax thermometers Wax pots Reusable wax applicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metal • Plastic Saucepans 	Skin infections Spreading blood borne viruses (BBVs)	Remove wax using appropriate solvent for the type of wax. Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry with lint free cloth.

Equipment	Potential health risk	Actions required
Nail varnish brushes	Contamination	Wash in hot water (70-80°C) and detergent. Dry in open air or in clothes dryer on hot setting. Dry as required by type of material.
Linen Towels	Infection	Wash in hot water (70-80°C) and detergent. Dry in open air or in clothes dryer on hot setting. Dry as required by type of material.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gowns and capes Hair covers Hair bands Other 		
Client couch/chair	Contamination dust accumulating	Wash with warm water and detergent. Dry thoroughly with lint free cloth.

After each use, dispose of these items as per the following advice.

Disposal

Equipment	Potential health risk	Actions required
Single use applicators	Infection	Dispose of into sterile container.

When empty, clean and disinfect these items as per the following advice.

Before refilling

Equipment	Potential health risk	Actions required
Bottles/sprays/pump dispensers	Potential for contamination	Wash in warm water and detergent. Rinse in hot running water. Dry thoroughly with lint free cloth before refilling.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquid soap Water Lotions Creams Gels 		

Each week, clean these items as per the following advice.

Weekly cleaning

Equipment

Potential health risk

Actions required

Equipment trolley or tray

Dust accumulating and
contaminating clean
equipment

Wash in warm water and detergent.

Rinse in hot running water.

Dry thoroughly with lint free cloth
before refilling.
