



GLADSTONE
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Hairdressing Business Operators

This fact sheet is designed as a guidance tool only to provide hairdressers with relevant health information regarding the hygienic provision of hairdressing services. For more detailed information, see the Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003 and the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2012.

Introduction

Hairdressing can be defined as a procedure intended to maintain, alter or enhance a person's appearance involving facial or scalp hair and includes cutting, trimming, styling, colouring, treating and shaving the hair.

The Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003 categorises hairdressers as a non-higher risk personal appearance service and therefore does not generally require a licence from Council. Even though you may provide a service that is not licensed (e.g. a non-higher risk activity), you must still take all reasonable precautions and care to minimise risk of infection to clients.

If your business is conducting any other activities which are not defined above, such as body piercing, please contact Council for details on higher risk personal appearance services.

Starting or buying an existing Hairdressing Business

To start a new business or renovate an existing Hairdressing business, you need to seek a relevant planning approval by lodging a Development Application. For further enquiries, please contact Councils Planning Division on (07) 4970 0700.

Other licenses/permits you may need:

- Discharge trade waste into the sewerage system - For enquiries contact Councils Development Services Division on (07) 4970 0700

When designing a new hairdressing salon, important structural items to include are:

- Suitable hand washing facilities
- Suitable equipment washing facilities
- Floors, walls, ceilings, benches and cupboard surfaces finished in materials suitable to enable easy cleaning
- Adequate vermin-proof cupboards for clean linen and clothing
- Adequate waste receptacles

Hygiene Hints for operating a Hairdressing Business

Personal hygiene

Hand washing is the most important measure in preventing the spread of infection. It removes microbial contamination from contact with clients and/or environment. You should wash your hands:

- Before treating a client
- After treating a client
- After smoking or eating
- After going to the toilet
- After cleaning contaminated equipment

Operators must not smoke while attending to a client.

Equipment

All equipment must be kept clean at all times. It is important that you refer to the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2012, Guideline 1.6 for a complete guide to correct sterilisation procedures.

Procedures

Cleaning hair cutting scissors

The best way to clean hair cutting scissors is to wear protective gloves, rinse the scissors in lukewarm water to remove hair, fully immerse the scissors in warm water and detergent and scrub with a clean brush, rinse the scissors in running hot water, and dry with disposable paper towels.

Cleaning hair cutting scissors after accidental contamination with blood

- Clean scissors as per Guideline 1.6, and
- Disinfect the cleaned scissors with either:
 - 70-80% ethyl alcohol-soaked wipe, or
 - 60-70% isopropyl alcohol-soaked wipe, or
 - Cloth or tissue soaked in methylated spirit

Cleaning electric hair clippers after accidental contamination with blood

- Clean electric hair clippers immediately after accidental contamination with blood.
- Disconnect the clippers from the power source.
- Remove hair from clipper teeth.
- Clean the clipper teeth with a plastic brush dampened with 70-80% ethyl alcohol or 60-70% isopropyl alcohol solution or methylated spirits.
- Wipe over other visible accessible areas with a clean cloth dampened with detergent and water as per guideline 1.6.1.
- Allow clipper teeth and other cleaned areas to air dry.
- Clean the cleaning brushes and cloths as per Guideline 1.6.3.

Treating clients with head lice

Hairdressers may treat clients who have head lice, however they need to:

- Use a non-chemical treatment (e.g. white hair conditioner and comb) or a chemical (insecticidal) treatment - follow the instructions on commercially available head lice products

- Clean instruments used in head lice treatments (e.g. combs) as per Guideline 1.6.1, Method 1
- Kill head lice and their eggs which stick to linen by:
 - washing linen in a washing machine using the hot water cycle, or
 - placing the linen in a hot clothes dryer cycle for 15 minutes, or
 - soaking the linen in a near boiling water for 30 minutes.

Post Treatment

After each client:

- sterilise re-usable equipment in accordance with Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2012.
- wash your hands

The Act requires that business proprietors and operators who provide personal appearance services to the public must take all reasonable precautions and care to minimise infection risks to clients. A copy of the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2012 can be found at www.health.qld.gov.au

How can you contact us?



(07) 4970 0700

STD CALLS: 1300 733 343

For those residents who currently incur STD call rates when contacting their local customer service centre



(07) 4975 8500



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