

# Health Updates

## for Personal Service Settings 2015

Halton Region Health Department

# Q&A

## Cleaning and disinfecting tools

### Why do I need to clean my tools before disinfecting them?

Cleaning tools with soap and water removes dirt, grease and styling products that can hide and protect germs from disinfectants.

Scrubbing tools with a brush, detergent and water, or using an ultrasonic cleaner and cleaning solution, followed by rinsing and drying will help the disinfectant do its work.

Be sure to disinfect your tools with the right disinfectant, following the manufacturer's instructions for use.

### How do I know if I'm using the right disinfectant?

Carefully read the instructions on the disinfectant packaging to ensure your product was made to clean your tools. If you have questions about a particular disinfectant, dial 311 and ask to speak with a public health inspector.

### What should I do if I'm too busy to clean tools between clients?

Dirty tools (like nail clippers and tweezers) must be cleaned and disinfected before using on another client.

If you can't clean your tools immediately, soak them in clean, lukewarm water (with or without detergent) to prevent debris or blood protein from drying.

If you only have one sink, fill a puncture-resistant container with water and detergent. We also recommend that you label and store dirty tools until cleaning. Be sure to always have several sets of cleaned and disinfected tools ready for clients.

### What about emery boards and pumice stones or sponges?

If a tool can't be cleaned and disinfected (such as emery boards and pumice stones), it must be discarded after each use.

### Personal service settings include:

- Tattoo and body piercing studios
- Esthetic salons (e.g. spas offering manicures, pedicures, facials and waxing)
- Hair salons and barbershops
- Places that do electrolysis

Personal service workers and their clients can be exposed to infections through procedures that are done. Our goal is to provide you with information about preventing the spread of infections.



# Reminders

**Always read the disinfectant labels before you use it.** If you don't use it properly, it won't work.

**Handwashing is critical.** It should be done before and after performing a personal service.



**Keep records for all items purchased as pre-packaged and sterile.** If the lot number isn't available, you must get a certificate of sterilization through the manufacturer.

**Personal items need their own home.** Food, aesthetic items, medication and other personal items belonging to personal service workers must not be stored with client supplies.

**Adding a new service?** Be sure to contact the Health Department so we can help you meet current requirements.

**Want to serve alcohol?** Be sure to contact the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to obtain a liquor license. Since you'll need Health Department approval, contact a public health inspector for our requirements.



## Skin infections

Be sure to clean your tools, equipment and hands to help prevent serious skin infections.

Infection	What is it? What does it do?	How to prevent it
<b>MRSA</b> (methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus)	Causes swollen, red skin around the infected area (often hands and nails) that will crack open and ooze pus.	Carefully wash hands and use cleaned and disinfected manicure/pedicure tools.
<b>Warts</b> (human papillomavirus – HPV)	Plantar warts grow into the bottom of the foot because of constant pressure. Common warts are on hands and tops of feet.	Use new pumice stones for each client and carefully clean and disinfect all reusable tools.
<b>Athlete's Foot</b>	Fungal infection that can create dry, flaky and itchy skin or red, peeling skin. It thrives in moist environments like a pedicure foot bath.	Clean and disinfect footbaths, including screens, after each use and at the end of the day.
<b>Mycobacterium fortuitum</b> (M. fortuitum)	Causes large boils, especially on toes, feet or legs.	Clean and disinfect footbaths, including screens, after each use and at the end of the day.