
Health Standards and Guidelines for Barbering and Hairstyling

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I. INTRODUCTION

Health Standards and Guidelines for Barbering and Hairstyling outlines and reviews the infection prevention techniques that are critical in reducing the risk of disease transmission.

Barbering and hairstyling services have been regulated under the Public Health Act since 1925. Combs, brushes, towels and hands present a limited risk of transmission of diseases such as ringworm, head lice, herpes, staphylococcus and streptococcus. However, instruments such as razors, scissors and clippers may potentially break the skin surface and come in contact with blood and body fluids providing an opportunity for the spread of infections such as HIV and Hepatitis.

II. OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Preparation and Handling of Instruments and Equipment

How the item is used determines the classification and type of disinfectant needed. (refer to Appendix 1 – Classification of Items for Disinfection).

- a. All combs and brushes shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with a low level disinfectant after each use.
- b. Scissors shall be cleaned and disinfected with a low level disinfectant after each use (e.g. barbercide).
- c. Electric clippers and their blades shall be cleaned and disinfected with an intermediate level disinfectant after each use.
- d. Any instrument, when visibly contaminated with blood products, shall be cleaned and disinfected with an intermediate level disinfectant.
- e. Razor blades used for shaving shall be disposable or cleaned and disinfected with an intermediate level disinfectant. Disposable razor blades are recommended and must be discarded immediately after each use.
- f. All towels shall be laundered and thoroughly dried in a mechanical dryer and stored in a clean and sanitary manner prior to reuse. Separate towels must be used for each client.
- g. Disposable neck strips or clean towels shall be provided under reusable capes for each client.
- h. The neck rest and the hair-washing bowl shall be cleaned between clients.

<p>Low level, Quaternary ammonium compounds. Some phenols and 3% hydrogen peroxide.</p>	<p>Kills some bacteria and viruses e.g. staphylococcus, herpes, HBV, HCV, and HIV. Does not kill <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>, fungi, or spores.</p>	<p>Low level disinfectants should be used to disinfect non-critical items, e.g. work surfaces, service tray. The disinfectant should be prepared and used according to manufacturers' directions.</p>
<p>Intermediate level, 5.25% household bleach; 1 part bleach and 9 parts water; 70% isopropyl alcohol, and iodophors.</p>	<p>Kills the microorganisms for low level disinfectants plus fungi but does not kill <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>, or spores.</p>	<p>Intermediate level disinfectants may be used in place of a low-level disinfectant to disinfect work surfaces and equipment. Effective for some semi-critical items.</p>
<p>High level, 2% glutaraldehyde or 6% hydrogen peroxide ★ Most disinfectants at this level may also achieve sterilization if used for longer time periods.</p>	<p>Kills all viruses, bacteria (including <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>) but does not kill spores.</p>	<p>Used for semicritical items and for critical items that cannot withstand heat sterilization.</p>

2. Skin Evaluation

- a. Shaving should not be performed on a customer affected with a facial or scalp infection. If there are "weeping" lesions in the area, shaving should be postponed.
- b. Barbering or hairstyling should not be performed on a client affected or suspected to have an infestation (eg. head lice). The client should be advised to consult a physician or the Regional Health Authority.
- c. Barbering and hairstyling may be conducted on clients with scalp infections and/or infestations if single-use, disposable gloves are worn and equipment is cleaned and disinfected with intermediate level disinfectant immediately after each use on such clients. Single-use disposable gloves must be discarded between clients.

3. Barber and Hairstylist - Health and Safety

- a. The barber or hairstylist shall wash his/her hands thoroughly before each procedure.
- b. Any barber or hairstylist with open lesions or weeping dermatitis such as eczema on the hands or other areas which are not adequately covered shall refrain from direct contact with clients until the condition clears or shall wear single-use, disposable gloves. Single-use, disposable gloves must be discarded between clients.

APPENDIX 1

Classification of Items for Disinfection

(Adapted from Health Canada – Infection Control Guidelines: Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Personal Services: Tattooing, Ear/Body Piercing and Electrolysis, Ottawa: CCDR July 1999.)

Classification	Disinfectant	Method
Non-critical		
Items that may come into contact with intact skin and/or are used for routine housekeeping.	Low level disinfectants are good for non-critical items.	Clean to remove dust or soil from items/equipment and surfaces with a solution of detergent and warm water.
Items that are rarely contaminated with blood/body fluid, e.g. client chair and table	Detergent is adequate	
Items that are often contaminated with blood/body fluid, e.g. lamp handles, clip cord, dirty instrument tray, tattoo motor frame, tattoo chuck or clamp, pump packs, spray bottle	Low level disinfectants, e.g. quaternary ammonium compounds or "Quats", or a combination of a low level disinfectant-detergent; 3% hydrogen peroxide compounds	
Semi-Critical		
Items come into contact with mucous membrane or non-intact skin, or they hold a sterile item.	Intermediate and high level disinfectants are good for items that come into contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin, or that hold a sterile item.	Clean item is wet wiped with an intermediate level disinfectant level disinfectant and air dried after each client.
Items that cannot be soaked and hold a sterile item that may have been splattered with blood/body fluids.	Intermediate level disinfectants, e.g. 70% isopropyl alcohol or 1 part 5.25% household bleach and 9 parts water. Bleach may be corrosive to metal.	
Items capable of being soaked and hold a sterile item that may have been splattered with blood/body fluids, e.g. needle pusher.	High level disinfectants, e.g. 2% gluteraldehyde or 6% hydrogen peroxide.	
Critical		
Items which enter deep in the skin, e.g. tattoo or ear/body piercing needles, hypodermic needle used during electrolysis, jewelry.	<p>Sterile items must be used to enter the skin.</p> <p>Metal items to pierce the skin should be purchased sterile or packaged and sterilized by a steam or dry heat method.</p>	<p>Pre-sterilized, single use, packaged needles or earring studs should be used. Items that are not pre-packaged as sterile must be sterilized. Sterile electrolysis needles should never be saved and reused on the same client</p> <p>Chemicals that sterilize are not recommended for critical items as it is difficult to monitor and confirm that sterilization has been achieved and the packaging of items to maintain sterility is not possible.</p>