

Hairdressing: A Guide for Compliance

The following are based on the requirements set out in the Health (Hairdressers) Regulations 1980 for hairdressing salons.

Personal hygiene

- Hand washing is a basic hygiene must. Wash your hands with warm water and soap prior to starting work and between each customer.
- Part of good personal hygiene is to have a clean and tidy presentation while hairdressing.
- Never keep combs, scissors or other hairdressing equipment in the pockets of your clothes.

Need this be said?

- Don't smoke while you are hairdressing.
- If you have suppurating skin on your head, neck, arms, or hands, then you can't safely undertake hairdressing as you might infect your customer. Wait until the condition has cleared, then you can start hairdressing again.

Sanitary practices

- Clean hairdressing equipment after use or prior to commencing hairdressing on another person.
- Place used equipment in a covered container until it is cleaned and disinfected.
- All powder puffs, permanent-wave pads, strips, flannels and other similar articles must be used only once and then discarded into the rubbish bin immediately after use.
- All liquids, creams, and powders must be stored in clean, closed containers and be taken out using a clean applicator that has been rendered hygienic, or by a clean spatula, or in some other manner that does not permit unused portions to be touched by hands.
- Think hands free.

- Sweep up cut hair after each haircut to prevent hair accumulating on the floor.
- Dispose of cut hair into a covered rubbish bin.
- Use appropriate cleaning and disinfecting methods for equipment and appliances.
- Scissors must be cleaned and treated with an appropriate disinfectant or similar prior to use on a new person, e.g. wiped over with a disposable alcohol swap.
- When cleaning equipment, e.g. electric clippers and rollers, etc, hair and similar material must be removed prior to washing and subsequent disinfection.
- Hairdressing equipment and similar utensils, i.e. rollers, brushes, combs, tool, etc, must be washed in detergent and hot water of at least 43°C after use on each customer and immediately after use on a person with inflamed or suppurating skin and then:
 - immersed in an approved disinfectant fluid for at least 15 minutes and no longer than recommended by manufacturer's instructions to ensure efficiency; or
 - placed in boiling water for at least five minutes; or
 - exposed to confined live steam for at least five minutes; or
 - exposed to ultra-violet radiation for at least 15 minutes (i.e. in an approved UV steriliser unit).
- Clippers, electric shavers and similar appliances with non-detachable parts first need to be cleaned by thorough brushing with a brush (provided for this express purpose), and then by wiping the blades with clean cotton wool saturated with an approved disinfectant.

Please turn over

- Any item that drops on the floor must be cleaned and disinfected prior to re-use. If not needed immediately, then place it into the covered container with the other items waiting to be cleaned.
- Cleaned and disinfected tools shall be kept in a clean covered container, separate from that for used items.
- Containers used to store clean equipment must be cleaned with a cloth saturated with an approved disinfectant at least once each day that hairdressing is carried out.

Towels and coverings

- Clean towels must be kept covered in a clean, dustproof and dry container while awaiting use.
- A clean towel or a disposable towel will be placed about the neck of each person prior to placement of any cape and commencing of hairdressing.
- Where disposable towels are used on a person's neck, these must be disposed of immediately after use and not re-used.
- Towels used on each person must be placed in a covered laundry hamper or similar while awaiting removal for washing.
- Towels and any other soiled linen used in connection with hairdressing must be washed in warm water with an antibacterial detergent.

Refreshments

- Refreshments must not be served in areas where haircutting is occurring.
- Single service or disposable utensils must be provided for customers' refreshments.

Backflow prevention

- An approved backflow prevention system is required for all hairdressing businesses. Please ring the Council and speak to an Environmental Health Officer for clarification or further information.

Consenting requirements

- There may be a need for a Building Consent for building works and back flow prevention and/or a Resource Consent if retail sales are part of your business model. Please contact the Council and ask to speak to the Building Unit and/or the Planning Unit to clarify if there are any consenting requirements required for your business.

Council Rates

- Setting up a business at home is likely to increase the Rates Assessment for your property. Please contact Council's Rates staff who will provide you with more details so you can be well-informed.

[Excerpt from the Health (Hairdressers) Regulations 1980]

- "2. Interpretation - In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, - "Alcohol" means a mixture of alcohol and water, with or without perfume, wood naphtha, or pyridine, and containing in the mixture not less than 69.5 percent and not more than 70.4 percent volume in volume of ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol:
- "Disinfecting fluid" means—
 - a. Alcohol as defined in this regulation; or
 - b. Any quaternary ammonium compound that, in a solution containing one part in 500 of water weight to volume, has a sterilising effect at least equal to alcohol; or
 - c. Any non-irritant disinfecting solution that has a disinfecting action at least equal to either of the foregoing:
- "Effective ultra-violet radiation" means electromagnetic radiation at a wavelength of 253.7 nanometres that has an intensity or at least 100 microwatts per square centimetre, measured at the surface on which utensils and equipment are exposed.

Find out more at waimakariri.govt.nz, or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.