

Nail Salons

Safety Meeting Packet

Protect Your Workforce



Nail salon employees can encounter several types of hazards each day, including exposure to hazardous chemicals, biological materials, and ergonomic issues.

Employers and employees must understand the hazards present in the workplace and develop methods to eliminate or reduce them to maintain a safe workplace.

Chemical Hazards

Nail products used in a salon contain a variety of hazardous chemicals, including acetone, ethyl acetate, formaldehyde, and toluene, among others. Repeated or continued exposure to many of the chemicals used can result in long-term health problems.

Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

A safety data sheet (SDS) is a printed document that chemical manufacturers or importers prepare for each chemical produced or imported. The SDS must contain specific information required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) under 29 CFR 1910.1200, Appendix D, including handling and storage, first-aid measures, and personal protection.

Employers are required to maintain an SDS for each hazardous chemical used in the workplace. Those sheets must be kept in a part of the work area that is readily accessible by employees during their work shifts.

Training

Employers must also provide training to employees on the methods that can be used to detect chemicals in the workplace, the hazards of chemicals in the work area, and measures employees can take to protect themselves.

Protection

There are several steps that can be taken to help protect employees from exposure to chemical hazards.

Use the least hazardous products. Some products claim to be made without toluene, formaldehyde, and dibutyl phthalate (known as the toxic trio). These products are labeled '3-free'. Other products are labeled as being 'acid free' and are made without chemicals like methacrylic acid.

Ensure that the workspace is properly ventilated. Open doors and windows when possible to bring in fresh air. If the salon is equipped with an exhaust system, keep it turned on. If there is not an exhaust system, keep the HVAC system running during business hours to circulate and filter the air. Consider using ventilated tables or portable ventilation machines to pull fumes from each work station. Change the filters on all ventilation systems regularly.

Store chemicals properly and keep chemicals at the workstation in small containers and tightly capped when not in use. When disposing of chemical-soaked items, seal them in a container before placing them in the garbage. Use a metal trash can with a self-closing lid for all waste and empty it often.

Wear clothing that protects the arms and lap areas. Disposable gloves and goggles should also be worn to protect the hands and eyes. When using disposable gloves, be sure to confirm that the type of glove is recommended on the SDS for the chemical in use.



Consider using respiratory protection like NIOSH-approved filtering facepiece respirators, especially if there is not adequate ventilation. When transferring chemicals from large to smaller containers, consider utilizing air-purifying respirators. Medical masks may prevent the spread of germs, but do not offer protection against vapors or dust.

Biological Hazards

Nail salon workers may be exposed to biological hazards like bacteria, fungi, viruses, and infectious agents such as Hepatitis or HIV through blood.

Workers should take the following precautions to avoid exposure:



- Avoid touching blood or bodily fluids.
- Avoid contact with clients who have cuts, open wounds, blisters, or visibly infected skin. Some state agencies prohibit working on clients with these issues.
- Wear gloves and throw them away immediately after use.
- Wash hands before and after working with a client.
- Bandage cuts to avoid contact with a client.
- Consider a Hepatitis B immunization. Employers must offer an immunization when employees are likely to be exposed to blood or infectious materials at work.
- Properly clean and disinfect tools, foot basins, and spas.

Ergonomic Hazards

Nail salon workers can also develop pain and discomfort from using improper body mechanics. An employee should be aware of their positioning at the work station and implement some of these tactics to improve their posture.

Use an adjustable chair to provide back support while keeping the worker's feet flat on the floor. If the worker's feet do not reach the floor, a footrest should be used. There should also be space between the back of the knee and edge of the seat to allow for good blood flow.

Improve overhead lighting or provide workstation lighting to allow the worker to view the client without bending. Using a cushion to raise the client's hand or foot can also reduce bending.

Place a foam pad or towel on the work surface to provide padding for the arms and elbows. Padding tool handles can make them easier to grasp.

During breaks, consider gentle stretching exercises and change tasks or positions frequently.

For additional information, please review the following OSHA standards:

- Respiratory Protection – 29 CFR 1910.134
 - Hand Protection – 29 CFR 1910.138
 - Bloodborne Pathogens – 29 CFR 1910.1030
 - Hazard Communication – 29 CFR 1910.1200
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Nail Salons

Safety Meeting Attendance Acknowledgement

Company Name _____
 Department / Division _____
 Meeting Date & Time _____ AM PM
 Meeting Location _____
 Name & Title of Individual Conducting Meeting _____

Key Meeting Discussion Points / Important Reminders:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Internal Procedures Reviewed:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

By signing this document, you confirm your attendance at the meeting and acknowledge the issues addressed above!

Employees in Attendance		
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____
(Print): _____	(Print): _____	(Print): _____
(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____	(Sign): _____

Employees not present: _____

Suggestions/Recommendations to improve workplace safety and health: _____

Actions Taken: _____

Manager/Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

Disclaimer:

The information provided above was assembled using multiple resources. However, these materials do not contain ALL the information available regarding the required safety standards under local, provincial, state, or federal law for your industry.
