

What to look for & look out for in a Nail Salon



What to look for:

- Salon should proudly have on show a certificate of education for each nail technician.
- Nail Technicians should wash their hands with soap before touching a client's hands, and should ask each client to wash their hands before the service.
- Nail Technician should lay a clean towel or disposable paper towel over their stations for every client. Pedicure clients also should get clean towels to rest their feet on, and whirlpools should be disinfected after each use.
- All instruments, including files and buffers, should be washed in soapy water after each client and fully immersed in a disinfectant for at least 10 minutes. Soiled instruments must be stored separately from clean instruments.
- Instruments and supplies that cannot be disinfected, such as orange sticks and the sponges placed between the toes, should be thrown away immediately after use.
- Never allow a Nail Technician to use a blade to cut away calluses on your heel or anywhere else. Callus buffers must be cleaned and disinfected like other instruments.
- The use of drills on the cuticles is legal, but cutting the skin is not. Manicures and pedicures should not be painful or leave your cuticles bloody and swollen. Drill bits should be cleaned after each client.
- Containers should be clearly marked with the contents.
- There should be adequate ventilation to remove fumes caused by nail products.
- You have the right to get clear answers to your questions about procedures, materials being used and their contents.

Do not be shy when asking what brands they use as any reputable Nail Technician will be proud to advertise the products they are using and proud to advertise their experience and expertise in their field.

What to look out for:

Watch for any of the following in a salon. If you see any of the following we recommend that you leave the salon and find another place for service or insist they follow correct procedures.

- Salon that does not look clean in general, with any nail clippings, dust or debris on the floor, drawers, tables, or other furniture.
- Salon is using dusty or dirty nail files, buffers and other tools.
- Salon is using products from unlabeled or unmarked containers.
- Salon stores nail files and other tools in a dirty drawer or container.
- Salon is using nail files or other tools are stored in dirty or contaminated-looking solution. Note: Some solutions are not transparent but are not necessarily "dirty". If uncertain, ask.
- Salon does not cover or place lid on disinfection containers.
- Restrooms are dirty or unkempt, lack liquid soap and clean towels.
- Nail technicians are using razors on client's feet to remove a callous or thick skin.
- Salon is providing services to clients with infected fingers, nails, toenails or feet.

Be wary of nail technicians or salon service providers who:

- Do not ask you to wash your hands or wash your feet before performing any nail or pedicure service.
- Do not wash their own hands before performing a nail or pedicure service.
- Provide services that are painful or damages your skin or nails.
- Cannot explain how they clean and disinfect their nail files, clippers, bits, and tools when asked.
- Cannot explain how they clean and disinfect foot spas when asked.
- Do not have a logbook indicating when pedicure foot spas were cleaned and disinfected.
- Use an implement or other object to forcibly remove or "pry off" artificial nails.
- Do not provide each client with a clean and disinfected nailbrush for scrubbing underneath nails.
- Do not use a clean, freshly laundered or disposable towel.
- Can not show that they are certificated at a nail technician.
- Say they are too busy to properly clean and disinfect their tools.
- Stick their fingers directly into jars or containers and do not use clean spatulas.
- Do not discuss concerns, ask questions and/or complete consultation before performing services.