



# *Barber Update*

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*Keeping You On The Cutting Edge*

## **TDLR IMPROVING SANITATION RULES FOR BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS *Agency Asks OAG for Opinion on Sanitization of Manicurist Instruments***

Changes in the law made by the 79<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature will require more stringent sanitation practices by beauty salons and barber shops that perform manicures and pedicures. Beginning next year, those businesses may be required to use an autoclave for disinfection of reusable instruments. But shop owners should not feel compelled to rush out and buy an autoclave right now.

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR), which assumed responsibility for the regulation of the cosmetology and barbering professions on September 1, is reviewing all rules pertaining to both professions with the intention of updating and streamlining those rules. Part of this process includes a review of the rules pertaining to sanitation practices.

“Our concern is with the health and safety of the customers,” said William Kuntz, TDLR’s executive director. “People have a right to know the instruments cosmetologists and barbers are using on them are clean and sanitary. The rules we propose will reflect that concern.

“At the same time, however, we don’t want to adopt rules that look good on paper, but don’t work in the real world,” Kuntz said. “All barbers and cosmetologists should take a careful look at these rules when we propose them next month. We are very interested in their opinions.”

Current cosmetology rules require sanitation of all reusable instruments used in manicures and pedicures after every use. This sanitation can be as simple as soaking the instruments in an EPA-approved disinfectant solution, such as chlorine bleach, or more aggressive sanitary practices, such as ultraviolet light, dry heat or an autoclave.

In its review of the rules, TDLR has asked the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to review bills passed by the 79<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to determine what sanitation practices are mandated. The review was requested on November 8, 2005, and may take as long as 180 days. TDLR will post the OAG opinion on its website after it is issued.

Revised and updated rules for barbers and cosmetologists are expected to be proposed in early December. All barbers, cosmetologists and anyone else wanting to provide input are encouraged to review and comment on the new rules when they are proposed.

To receive news and updates on the cosmetology program, or any of the programs TDLR administers, sign up for TDLR’s email subscription service at <http://www.license.state.tx.us/newsletters/TDLRnotificationLists.asp>.

***Please post this notice in your barber supply store, shop, or school.***

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