

## I'm going to get my nails done!

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Barbering and Cosmetology program has rules and guidelines to safeguard your health and well-being when you get a manicure or pedicure. These rules will prevent cuts, burns, infections, and the transmission of contagious diseases — some of which can have serious health consequences. In Texas, all barbering and cosmetology establishments and service providers are required to have a TDLR license or specialty certificate.

Before you go for your appointment, make sure you don't have any open wounds on your hands if you're getting a manicure or cuts or rashes on your legs if you're planning to get a pedicure. An establishment should not provide services if you have inflamed, broken skin or inflamed nails because bacteria can more easily gain access to your body through small cuts and cause an infection. You also shouldn't shave your legs that day because it's possible there are small cuts you can't see.

## What do I look for at the salon?

Cleanliness is important. Take a look around when you enter the establishment. Is it clean? Are trash cans emptied? Can you see nail clippings that haven't been cleaned up from previous clients? Is there a strong chemical smell? If the establishment looks dirty or there's a strong chemical smell, you should go somewhere else for services.

Next, look for the licenses for the establishment AND the technician who will be working on your nails. The technician license should include a photo of the technician. Both establishment and technician licenses should be posted prominently near the front of the shop. If the establishment operator and technician can't — or won't — show you licenses, then go somewhere else.

The same thing applies to the cleaning logs. Ask to see them.

## COSMETOLOGY CONSUMER PROTECTION



## Cleanliness is important

Don't be shy — ask questions about how the establishment sterilizes and cleans the items they'll use when doing your nails. Ask to see their cleaning logs. If you don't feel comfortable with the answers, you should go somewhere else.

- Establishments must keep a cleaning and disinfecting record for at least 60 days, and they can be cited for a violation for not making the cleaning record available upon request to a client or TDLR inspector.
- Each client must receive new or clean cloth towels, finger bowls or spatulas that contact the skin or skin products from multi-use containers.
- Manicure or pedicure tools that can't be sterilized must be disinfected for each client.
- Any buffer blocks or porous nail files that are exposed to broken skin or unhealthy skin or nails should be thrown away.
- Electric drill bits must be cleaned after each use.
- Spas or foot basins must be drained, cleaned and disinfected after each client.
- If the establishment uses disposable spa liners and portable whirlpool jets, they must drain the water, throw away the liner and clean the portable whirlpool jet.
- Each spa chair must be cleaned or disinfected after service is provided to a client.

When the manicure or pedicure begins, the technician should clean each area of the body that will be receiving treatment.

Technicians are not allowed to use any product, preparation or procedure that penetrates the skin layer. They also cannot use a styptic pencil or a razor-type callus shaver (i.e., Credo Blade) that is designed and intended to cut growths of skin such as corns and calluses.

Would you feel more comfortable bringing your own tools? You're absolutely allowed to do that. Just let your technician know that you'd prefer that they use your own items. Be sure you clean and sterilize them before your next visit.

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## Uh oh. I think I may have developed an infection after my visit.

If you develop redness or swelling in or near the nail bed after a manicure or pedicure, you should seek immediate medical attention. Don't put off seeing a doctor; some infections can be serious. If you think the infection happened because of conditions at the establishment where you had your manicure or pedicure, you can file a complaint with TDLR, and we will investigate.

## Complaints

TO REPORT COMPLAINTS, CONTACT: TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING & REGULATION | P.O. BOX 12157 | AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711  
(800) 803-9202 | [www.tdlr.texas.gov/complaints](http://www.tdlr.texas.gov/complaints)