

Hairdressing / Barbering

- i. Any reusable surface cover that is not cleaned/launched between each client use must be used in conjunction with a single-use disposable sheet.
- ii. When a reusable protective cover is used around a client's neck, a sanitary strip of clean towel must be used to keep the protective cover from coming into direct contact with the client's neck. The neck strip of towel must be discarded/launched after each use.
- iii. Items, which only contact hair and not skin, are considered to be non-critical and require, at a minimum, cleaning with soap or detergent and a brush under running water between uses. A low-level disinfectant solution can be used to disinfect pre-cleaned, non-critical items.
- iv. If a non-critical item, such as scissors or clippers, nicks the skin, it must be processed as a semi-critical item before it can be reused. Low-level disinfectant solutions cannot be used to disinfect semi-critical items. An intermediate to high-level disinfectant is required to process semi-critical items.
- v. Any blades used for shaving skin, must be single-use and discarded in an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- vi. The handle and cradle of the razor, which holds the blade in place, must be cleaned and disinfected as a semi-critical item after each use. It is recommended to use razors that allow for easy cleaning of the cradle.
- vii. A straight razor with a fixed blade (all in one piece, so the blade is reusable and not disposable) is not recommended, as cleaning sharps is hazardous to the PSW. If using a straight razor, it must be cleaned and sterilized between uses.
- viii. Styptic pencils cannot be used to stop bleeding on clients. Powder or liquid forms are acceptable provided that if direct contact with the skin is required that it be applied by use of a disposable applicator.

- ix. Razors used for cutting hair must have a proper guard in place to prevent the blade from coming in contact with the skin. Razors are to be disposed of in an approved sharps container.
- x. The handle and cradle of razors used for cutting hair require no processing and the blade can be reused, if only used for cutting hair.
- xi. “Crochet hooks” used for cap highlights are considered semi-critical items as they may scratch the scalp, and must be processed accordingly after each use.
- xii. All disinfectant solutions must be made fresh daily, or according to the manufacturers’ specification.
- xiii. All items must be cleaned and dried with a clean towel before they can be placed in a disinfectant solution. Placing a soiled item in a disinfectant solution contaminates the entire solution and therefore contaminates all items placed in it.
- xiv. To achieve disinfection, items require full immersion in the solution for the appropriate contact time instructed by the manufacturer.
- xv. Most hair salons and barbershops use a low-level disinfectant solution, which is a quaternary ammonium compound. Since items to be placed in quaternary ammonium compounds require cleaning prior to immersion and rinsing after contact time in the solution, it is recommended that the disinfectant solution be placed next to a sink, as opposed to a workstation, to encourage proper use of the disinfectant.
- xvi. Clean items must be stored separately to prevent cross contamination with soiled items or surfaces. Never store clean items and dirty items together. Do not store any item in a container in which contaminated objects were placed or into a container that cannot be cleaned due to the nature of its surface material.
- xvii. Any needles used for hair weaves and extensions that contact the client or operator must be discarded in an approved sharps container immediately after contact.

For more information, call

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**HealthACTION Line
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**visit our website at
www.healthunit.org/infectious**