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| Hairdressing and barbering |
| Procedure specific requirements |

Hairdressing includes services such as hair shampooing, cutting, colouring and styling. Barbering businesses may also include beard trimming and face-shaving services.

### Key points for business proprietors

* Hairdressing and barbering pose a **low risk** for transmission of infection.
* Using **razors and scissors** presents a small risk of transmission of blood-borne viruses.
* Razors should be **single-use only**.
* We do **not** recommend using electric shavers as they can become contaminated the same way that razors can.

### Specific health-risk information

Although infections can occur during hairdressing and barbering procedures, in general they pose a low risk for transmission of infection.

Infections that can be spread in hairdressing premises include skin infections on the scalp, face and neck such as impetigo (also known as school sores) and fungal infections such as tinea capitis and ringworm.

These infections can spread when you do not clean instruments and equipment between clients, when you do not handle instruments hygienically, and when things like furnishings and fittings are not kept clean and in good repair.

Pediculosis or head lice are common and often cause concern. Head lice are spread through direct hair-to-hair contact. Head lice do not have wings or jumping legs so they cannot fly or jump from head to head. They can only crawl. Head lice do not transmit any infectious diseases and there is no evidence to suggest that the environment is of significant concern in their transmission. Infection in wounds caused by scratching may occasionally occur. While there is no regulation preventing a person with head lice or their eggs from using or attending a hairdressing salon, you may ask someone to reschedule their appointment. Although head lice only survive on the human head, all hair dressing equipment should be washed and dried before reuse. Lice are easily killed by water temperatures greater than 60 degrees Celsius. No disinfection or fumigation of the salon is required.

Further information about head lice can be found at the [Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/ConditionsAndTreatments/head-lice-nits) <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/ConditionsAndTreatments/head-lice-nits>.

There is a small risk of transmission of blood-borne viruses through the use of razors and scissors. Razors should be single-use only. If other items such as scissors are contaminated with blood or body fluids, you should clean and sterilise them before reuse, or disposed of them if they cannot be sterilised.

You should ask clients if they have any skin lesions such as prominent moles. Ask the client to specify the location so you can take care to avoid damaging them.

Electric shavers are considered contaminated with blood after use in the same way that other razors and blades are contaminated. The blades, mesh and the blade mechanism housing are difficult to clean and will not withstand the sterilisation process. This difficulty is due to their design and the materials they are made from. Debris from shaving, such as blood, hair and skin cells, have been found in the body and motor of electric razors. We do not recommend using electric shavers on clients, and you should not lend electric shavers to clients.

WorkSafe Victoria provides an occupational health and safety risk assessment tool in the *Guide to the management of hazardous substances in the hairdressing and beauty industry*, 2nd edition, June 2017. This can be accessed at the [WorkSafe website](https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/management-hazardous-substances-hairdressing-and-beauty-industry) <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/resources/management-hazardous-substances-hairdressing-and-beauty-industry>.

### Cleaning and reprocessing requirements for equipment

Table 7: Cleaning and reprocessing requirements for hairdressing and barbering

| Equipment | Use of item | When | Recommendations |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Disposable razors | Shaving | After each client | Dispose of into a sharps container. |
| Disposable razor blades (safety-type razor with reusable handle) | Shaving or cutting/razoring hair | After each client | Blade:Dispose of into a sharps container.Handle:Wash in warm water and detergent.Rinse in hot running water.Dry with a lint-free cloth.Note: if contaminated with blood dispose of into clinical and related waste, or clean and sterilise. |
| Straight blade (cut throat) razor | Shaving | After each client | With disposable blade:Dispose of blade into a sharps container.Handle:Wash in warm water and detergent.Rinse in hot running water.Dry with a lint-free cloth.Note: if contaminated with blood dispose of into clinical and related waste, or clean and sterilise.All in one blade and handle:Wash in warm water and detergent.Rinse in hot running water.Dry with a lint-free cloth.Package and sterilise. |
| Dye mixing bowls | Mixing hair-dye colours | After each client | Rinse free of dye.Wash in warm water and detergent.Rinse in hot running water.Dry with a lint-free cloth. |
| Dye brushes/ applicators | Applying dye to hair | After each client | Rinse free of dye.Wash in warm water and detergent.Rinse in hot running water.Dry with a lint-free cloth. |
| Hair brushesCombsNeck brushesRollersHair pins/clips | Styling hair | After each client | Use a lint-free cloth to remove hair.Wash in warm water and detergent.Rinse in hot running water.Dry with a lint-free cloth. |
| ScissorsClippers | Cutting hair | After each client | Use a lint-free cloth to remove hair.Wash in warm water and detergent.Rinse in hot running water.Dry with a lint-free cloth.Note: if contaminated with blood dispose of into a sharps container, or clean and sterilise.Electric clippers hand piece:Wipe over with cloth dampened with warm water and detergent.Rinse by wiping with cloth dampened in hot water.Dry thoroughly.Note: if contaminated with blood, disinfect by wiping with a cloth dampened with 70 per cent alcohol solution and allow to dry. |
| Shaving brushes | Applying shaving soap | After each client | Rinse free of hair and shaving cream.Wash in warm water and detergent.Rinse in hot running water.Dry thoroughly. |
| LinenTowelsGowns or capesHair coversHair bands | Assorted uses | After each client (unless a clean towel or paper tape is used around the neck) | Wash in hot water (70–80 degrees Celsius) and detergent.Dry as required according to material type (clothes dryer on hot setting or air dry). |
| Electric razors | Shaving | Do not use | Cannot withstand immersion or sterilisation. |

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