

# Hygiene and Infection Control

## Barbers and Hairdressers

Health and safety law covers infection control. Employers must safeguard both customers and employees from catching infections whilst in their business. Failure to put in place suitable control measures can lead to large fines or prison sentences for employers.



### Hand Hygiene

Barbers/hairdressers should wash and sanitise their hands before and after each client to prevent the spread of germs. Employers should provide a neutral hand moisturiser e.g. E45 for barbers to help prevent dermatitis.



### Chairs

It is good practice for chairs to be cleaned and sanitised after every client to maintain a clean and hygienic environment for customers and employees. Wipe the headrest with a disinfectant wipe between clients.



### Tools

Using the same tools and equipment on multiple clients can lead to cross contamination.

Tools should be cleaned and sanitised between each client where applicable and in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

Barbers may need more than one set of tools for busy periods.

Barbers and Hairdressers have a duty of care to use tools which are properly maintained and sanitised and use them in a way which is safe and does not cause injury.

### Infections

You must check to ensure that clients do not have infectious conditions such as:



### Disinfecting tools step-by-step



**1**  
Turn off /unplug any electrical equipment. Brush off any hair and debris from the tools.



**2**  
Clean the tools with warm soapy water and rinse (if waterproof). If not waterproof, then use alcohol wipes or similar and always follow the manufacturers' instructions.



**3**  
Soak any tools in a suitable disinfectant solution for the recommended duration stated on the label. Suitable disinfectant solution e.g. Barbicide.



**4**  
Dry tool with a disposable towel, e.g. blue roll or leave to air dry.

### Foil Shavers

Foil shavers are often used for a skinfade haircut, with some barbers saying up to 70% of their clients are now asking for this style. However, where foil shavers are used, there can be a risk of catching ringworm and folliculitis due to inadequate cleaning of the equipment. Since foil clippers give such a close cut, it takes hair in through the clipper head and therefore requires a more detailed and thorough clean. It is recommended that between each client. Shavers must be brushed between each client and 'clippercide spray' must be used between each client.



### Single Use Razors

Only single use razors must be used. Disposable blades must be discarded in a sharps container immediately after each client. Handles of razors with detachable blades must be cleaned and disinfected before attaching a new blade. This can be done by wiping with a disinfecting wet wipe. Improperly sterilized or reused razors pose a risk of transmitting blood-borne viruses like HIV and Hepatitis B or C. Clean hot towels must be used on every client, towels should be washed on a hot setting, e.g. over 90 degrees celsius.

