

Manicures, Pedicures and Nail Treatments

Nail Fungus, Nail “Mould”

Client’s nails must be carefully examined prior to providing nail services. Nail fungus usually appears as a discoloration in the nail that spreads toward the cuticle. Nail “mould” can often be identified in the early stages as a yellow-green spot that becomes darker with time.

Nail services must not be provided for a client who has this type of discoloration on his or her nails. PSW’s should not provide the client with any fungal ointment or treatment. Clients with this condition must be advised to see their doctor for appropriate treatment.

Additional Requirements to the General Guidelines

Recirculation systems (e.g. foot spa/bath) may be predisposed to development of a biofilm layer, hence cleaning and disinfectant solutions must be circulated through the system. Improper cleaning and disinfection processes have been linked with several mycobacterial outbreaks.

- i. Nail service equipment and instruments (including recirculation systems) must be cleaned and then intermediate to high-level disinfected between clients.
- ii. Footbaths: After each use, the foot bath must be cleaned with a detergent and water solution, rinsed and then disinfected with an intermediate to high-level disinfectant solution. Each (cleaning and disinfectant) solution must be circulated through the footbath’s circulating system.
- iii. The disinfectant solution must be circulated for the minimum specified contact time as per the manufacturer’s recommendations. For bleach solutions refer to attached table.

- iv. Footbaths that are equipped with a screen and recirculation systems require additional maintenance. The screen must be removed and cleaned to remove any debris that has accumulated, followed by intermediate to high-level disinfection.
- v. Pedicure blades must be discarded in an approved sharps container immediately after use on each client.
- vi. Any styptic product used must be single-use and discarded after each client. Styptic pencils cannot be used to stop bleeding on clients. Powder or liquid form is acceptable provided that if direct contact with the skin is required, that it be applied by use of a disposable applicator.

Preparing Household Bleach as a Disinfectant

The solution must be made fresh daily to preserve strength.

Household Bleach Solution is 5.25% sodium hypochlorite solution (50,000 ppm available chlorine).

Level required	When to be used – see Table 2 on disinfection	How to mix the bleach solution
High – Level Disinfection	<p>Use on semi-critical items: Items that may accidentally penetrate skin and/or come into contact with blood or body fluids. Also use to clean surfaces following contact with bloody or body fluids or where sterilization is not possible.</p> <p>Contact time >20 minutes</p>	<p>10 ml bleach with 495 ml water or 2 tsp. bleach with 2 cups water</p>
Intermediate – Level Disinfection	<p>Use on semi-critical items: items that may accidentally penetrate skin and/or come into contact with blood or body fluids (e.g. hair clippers, cuticle scissors).</p> <p>Contact time >10 minutes</p>	<p>10 ml bleach with 495 ml water or 2 tsp. bleach with 2 cups water</p>
Low-Level Disinfection	<p>Use on non-critical items: items that come in contact but do not penetrate intact skin, or those that do not ordinarily touch the client. These items do not contact blood or body fluids. May be used for routine housekeeping (e.g. floors or surfaces).</p> <p>Contact time >10 minutes</p>	<p>5 ml bleach with 2 ½ litres water or 1 tsp. bleach with 10 cups water</p>

For more information, call

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**HealthACTION Line
at 1-800-660-5853**

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