

Waxing

Waxing, if not done properly, could lead to skin irritations, infections of the hair follicle, or the transmission of blood-borne diseases such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or HIV. **Infection prevention and control precautions must be followed to protect both personal service workers and clients.**

You do not have to see blood or bodily fluids on the instruments for an infection to occur.

The following is in addition to general operational requirements for personal services settings.

Infection Prevention and Control Requirements:

- Examine the skin of the client's body to ensure that the skin is healthy and intact. Do not wax if skin is broken, infected or irritated.
- If you anticipate being in contact with blood or bodily fluids, it is recommended you wear single-use disposable non-sterile gloves.
- Wash hands before and after each waxing procedure, in between breaks in service, or before putting on or removing gloves.
- Clean and disinfect client's skin with a skin antiseptic prior to waxing.
- Hepatitis B vaccination is strongly recommended for the personal service worker.

Equipment:

- If applying wax directly onto skin, a single-use disposable applicator (e.g. spatula, stick) should be used. **Do not double dip! Once a spatula/stick has come in contact with the client's skin, it should never be dipped into the wax again.**
- Single-use applicators must be discarded after each contact with client. Use a new applicator for the next application on the same client.
- Reusable applicators must be constructed of non-porous material which can be easily cleaned and disinfected.
- Other single-use disposable items (e.g. cloth/paper strips, threads etc.) must be discarded after each client.
- Rollerhead wax applicators are single use and must be disposed of after each client. Cartridge casing must be cleaned and disinfected with a low level disinfectant between clients.
- Hair removal products such as wax, sugaring products etc. must not be reused or recycled.
- Tweezers used after the waxing process to remove hairs are to be cleaned and disinfected (using intermediate to high level disinfectant) after each client.
- If reusable equipment is used to REMOVE an ingrown hair, it must be cleaned and sterilized between clients. This is considered an invasive procedure because the item has intentionally penetrated the skin.
- Clean multi-use instruments such as stainless steel spatulas, with soap and water, then disinfect with an intermediate to high-level disinfectant.
- Use fresh paper liner or clean linen on waxing tables/beds between each client. Used linen must be laundered after each client.

Note: The heated wax temperature is not hot enough to kill bacteria or viruses.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION