



Beauty therapists in New South Wales must be registered with the local council and comply with current legislation.

You may need to visit more than one salon to find one that you are comfortable with, but once you have found an operator with your best interests at heart, you can spend your time relaxing with confidence.

For more information on choosing a beauty therapist, current legislation or to check if they are registered, please contact your local council.



The Hunter Regional Health Education Committee consists of representatives from all Hunter and Central Coast councils and the Central Coast Area Health Service, which combine to produce public and environmental health educational materials for the benefit of their communities.

Further information and fact sheets on body decoration and grooming including beauticians can be found at:
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/environment/general/body_grooming.asp

Choosing a Beauty Therapist





Having beauty treatments is becoming more popular as society is growing more fashion conscious. This can leave you feeling refreshed, rejuvenated and glamorous.

Taking a minute or two to look around and ask a few questions can help make sure that getting beauty therapy is a safe and rewarding experience.

So what are the risks?

Besides the risk of not getting the look you were after, there is also the risk of contracting disease or infections. Procedures such as acupuncture, ear piercing, and sometimes hair removal including waxing causes blood or other body substances to surface. This means that when it's not done safely you risk problems like:

- Flare up of existing eczema;
- Keloids (thick scars on dark skin);
- Bacterial infections like Staphylococcus Aureus and Pseudomonas; and
- More serious blood borne diseases like Hepatitis B, C, Tetanus or HIV.

Infections can also occur where:

- Materials that come into contact with clients are not clean or are not handled and used hygienically; and
- Proper operator hygiene is not observed.



What should you look out for?

Botox injections must be performed under the supervision of a qualified doctor.

The shop and especially the work area should be clean and tidy; this is a good indication of the general work practices of an operator.

The equipment used should be clean and stored in clean containers.

The staff must wash their hands with warm water and soap, and dry them with disposable towel before and after every client.

Treatment areas should be cleaned between each client and/or have a clean cover placed over the treatment surface.

It is recommended that beauty therapists use single use skin penetration equipment wherever possible and dispose of it into a yellow sharps container immediately after use.

The operator must wear clean, washable garments and disposable gloves to protect them and you.

All reusable equipment should be cleaned between uses.

Reusable skin penetration equipment should come from sterile containers or bags and be opened in front of you.



Oils, ointments, cream or wax should be dispensed using a single use applicator or a separate container for each client – there must not be any double dipping.

Wax used for hair removal must be discarded after it has been used.

Skin to be treated should be cleaned with a skin antiseptic.

Questions to ask yourself...or the operator

Is the equipment which pierces the skin single use (disposable) or reused -in which case it must have been cleaned and sterilised before being used on you?

How is the equipment sterilised?

Autoclaves and Dry Heat are the only acceptable methods of sterilising – the following do not sterilise: boiling, pasteurisation, disinfectants, pressure cookers, microwave ovens, ultraviolet cabinets and ultrasonic cleaners.

If the equipment is sterilised, is the sterilised bag opened in front of you?

Is there a yellow sharps container for disposal of sharps?

Is the skin cleaned with antiseptic before penetration?

What experience does the operator have?