

MANICURE AND PEDICURE SERVICES

Information for the general public

Porcupine Health Unit, Public Health Inspection Services, Control of Infectious Diseases

NOTE: This information is provided solely for your convenience to increase awareness about the services you receive. This information is not intended to be legal or medical advice. If you have medical questions arising from care you have received, speak with your doctor. If you have legal concerns about any manicure or pedicure service, consult a lawyer.

Ontario consumers have the right to expect clean, safe services when having a manicure or pedicure. Anytime you get your nails done, you are at risk of getting many serious infections. You do not have to see blood or body fluids on equipment or surfaces for an infection to occur. Many bacteria and viruses can be spread through the use of dirty instruments. Make sure the business has made both hygiene and appropriate sterilization or disinfection of equipment high priorities.

What to look for and ask:

- Make sure you go to a business that has been inspected by Public Health staff. Ask to see the most recent inspection report or call your local public health unit for more information.
- The business must be clean and well lit.
- The business must have a sink with liquid soap and paper towels to wash and dry hands.
- The worker must wash their hands before they touch you.
- You have the right to ask the worker to explain how they clean and disinfect their equipment before the service begins.
- If you have any doubts, LEAVE. Your body and health may be at risk.
- Make sure your hands are washed and there is no infection on the skin of your hands or your nails before you get a manicure.
- Make sure new emery boards, nail files, wooden cuticle pushers, foam toe separators, pumice stones, buffing blocks and other equipment and supplies (for example, towels) are used for each client.
- Make sure the footbath has been cleaned and disinfected and that fresh water is used after each client.
- Don't have a pedicure with newly shaved legs or when there are open cuts or wounds on your legs or feet. You may be at higher risk of getting an infection.
- Make sure the business does not use tools on you that were just used on someone else without first cleaning then disinfecting them. All instruments used on you must be clean.
- Ultraviolet sterilizers are not approved for sterilization of equipment.
- Manicures and pedicures should never be painful.
- After your manicure/pedicure, if the skin around your nails becomes painful, red or inflamed, see a doctor.
- If you have any concerns, contact your local public health unit.

Source: MOHLTC, Public Health Division, January 2010

**For more information,
contact your local
health inspector
or call 1-800-461-1818.
www.porcupinehu.on.ca**

