



The Healthy Hair Salon Project

Healthy Hair Salon Model Checklist

Factsheet #3

<https://www.ohccupstate.org/hair%20salon.htm>

This Healthy Hair Salon Project was designed to bring awareness of the known hair salon health hazards and changes that owners and workers can make to improve their work conditions. This third factsheet combines information provided in factsheets 1 & 2, in a checklist format to be used to begin making changes in your salon. The focus of this factsheet is on the prevention / control measures to reduce exposures in the salon and is meant to provide a means to determine if a salon is meeting these basic steps.

Product substitution: the best approach to reduce health hazards is to remove hazardous products and replace them with more preferable substitutes which are less harmful (see factsheet #1). Note: Currently, the U.S. lags behind other countries (e.g. European Union) in banning harmful ingredients in salon products.

- Have safety data sheets (SDS) and labeling information been collected for all products and been made available in the salon?
- Have SDS been reviewed for hazardous chemical ingredient by comparing to the following resources?
 - Ingredients to Avoid in Salon Products List (https://womensvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Ingredients-to-Avoid-in-Salon-Products_workers.pdf); Campaign for Safe Cosmetics Red List (<http://www.safecosmetics.org/get-the-facts/chemicals-of-concern/red-list/>)
- Have hazardous salon chemicals been removed and substituted with less harmful chemical products? For example, permanent hair dyes & straighteners are found to be associated with increased cancer rates and should be removed.

Hair treatment methods: some salon treatment methods can create a hazardous chemical exposure. For example, using a hot iron process with treatment chemicals can release the toxic gas formaldehyde.

- Have salon treatment methods been reviewed to see if they are of concern?
- Have hot iron treatments been discontinued? If not, go to next step:
- Chemicals used with hot iron treatments can create a hazard like formaldehyde and should be removed.

Ventilation: can reduce hazardous chemical exposures in a salon by removing air contamination and replacing it with fresh outdoor air (see factsheet #2). This can be accomplished by increasing the fresh outdoor air into the existing heating and ventilation system, or using window and door fans. Air filtration can help remove dust particles from the salon environment by adding to existing ventilation systems or using a freestanding air cleaner. Nail salon stations must comply with the New York State ventilation requirements by exhausting dust and fumes to the outside.

- Does the salon's heating / cooling system bring in outdoor air?
- Does it provide an adequate amount of outdoor air (20 CFM per person)?
- Has outdoor air been increased into your salon environment by other methods?
- Have air filters in the salon ventilation system been increased to a MERV 13 or higher filter?
- Have the ventilation system; outdoor air intake; air filters been inspected in the last six months?
- Has an HEPA air cleaner been installed in the salon environment?
Note: electronic air cleaners can produce ozone - a lung irritant; and should be avoided.
- Are nail salon stations equipped and operate with local exhaust systems as required?

December 2020

Personal protective equipment (PPE): some work tasks in the salon may require skin, eye, and breathing protection. Until safer products can be used, it may be necessary to use protective gloves, eye protection, and breathing protection (dust masks or chemical cartridge respirators).

- Have SDS (safety data sheets) been reviewed to determine what PPE to use?
- Have salon workers been asked if they need PPE?
- Are chemical protective gloves available for salon workers?
- Are respirators and/or dust masks available for salon workers? (Note: OSHA requirements such as medical clearance & fit testing of respirators may be necessary).
- Are protective glasses or goggles provided to salon workers ?

Training: training on safe chemical use, protective measures, and safety data sheet information are all needed so that salon workers and owners are informed about important steps to take to protect their health.

- Has training on hazardous chemical information including the SDS taken place?
- Has training on the use of personal protective equipment such as gloves, eye protection, and respirators (if applicable) been completed?
- Has training on ventilation operation, the use of air filters and filtration, and fresh air intake taken place?

Worker/ Employer Problem Solving: in order to problem solve issues or raise concerns about working conditions, group discussions are useful to bring many voices to the table. Group problem solving can contribute to addressing issues facing workers for example, that individually may not be possible.

- Has salon management encouraged group discussions with workers?
- Have workers met to bring issues to management attention?
- Are issues worked on to provide adequate solutions?

Sustainability of the Healthy Hair Salon Model: the distribution and sharing of this information to salons will help to build awareness and prevention of adverse health effects in salon workers. In addition, salon clients may also benefit from this information. The series of three factsheets addresses important information in order to move the healthy hair salon model forward.

Factsheet #1: Pollution Prevention In The Hair Salon

Factsheet#2: Reducing Your Exposures

Factsheet #3: Healthy Hair Salon Model Checklist

Are the three factsheets available in the salon for sharing?

Is the Healthy Hair Salon Model promoted in your salon?

This checklist provides components which are part of creating a healthy work environment for salon workers, owners, and clients. Use this checklist to help your salon to follow a healthy hair salon model.



Funding provided by the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

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