Nail Salon Operations
Best Management Practices For
Hazardous Materials/Waste Handling

(Updated June 2016)

Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be thought of as "good housekeeping" procedures. In nail salons, you may have waste streams regulated as hazardous waste by federal and state laws. Fluorescent bulbs could be considered nonhazardous if properly recycled. Additionally, two options are available for the disposal of cotton balls/wipes containing acetone/nail polish. These options are listed below, along with procedures to help you comply with these regulations and help reduce the liabilities associated with noncompliance.

Types of Regulated Waste Streams:

Nail Polish Remover- Any product utilized to remove nail polish, artificial nails, or glues by process, and contains equal to or more than 24% alcohol, or has a flash point less than 140 degrees Fahrenheit, is a regulated hazardous waste (D001). This waste stream includes applicators (cotton balls, cloth, etc.) and/or soak off waste from the removal of polish and/or artificial nails and their glues. However, a new rule was put in place by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Management Practices for Wipes, Rags and Shop Towels that are only contaminated with Excluded Solvents.

This new rule allows for an alternative disposal option to treat the waste stream used to remove nail polish and/or artificial nails. The new rule states that used cotton balls can be placed in the dumpster/garbage. **HOWEVER,** in order to be in compliance and avoid fines, you **must** follow the attached rule for Management of excluded solvent contaminated wipes. Below are some important management practices to follow for this rule.

Storage: Cotton balls/wipes with nail polish remover/acetone must be accumulated, stored and transported in non-leaking, closed containers. Containers should be able to hold free liquids if they occur. Any free liquids require a hazardous waste determination to determine proper disposal. Be advised, allowing the liquid to evaporate is not an acceptable form or treatment. You may accumulate cotton balls/wipes for up to 180 days from the day you start to accumulate the cotton balls/wipes. **Do Not Place SATURATED** cotton balls/wipes in the accumulation container. The cotton balls/wipes must contain no free liquids prior to being sent for disposal.

Disposal under new rule for Excluded Solvent Contaminated Wipes:

Labeling: Containers must be labeled "Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes". If you use a liner such as a plastic bag, the liner must also be properly labeled as well, with the words "Excluded Solvent-Contaminated Wipes", before placing it in the dumpster/garbage.

Disposal: Cotton balls/wipes must contain no free liquids prior to being sent for disposal, and there may not be free liquids in the container holding the cotton balls/wipes. After meeting the guidelines, this type of waste can be placed into the dumpster/garbage.

Recordkeeping: Generators must maintain documents/log book that includes:

- Name and address of the landfill or combustor (where the waste is taken by garbage hauler)
- Documentation that the 180-day accumulation time limit is being met
- Description of the process the generator is using to meet the "no free liquids" condition

Disposal under Hazardous Waste Regulations:

The other option for disposal is to treat any product utilized to remove nail polish, artificial nails, or glues by process, and contains equal to or more than 24% alcohol, or has a flash point less than 140 degrees Fahrenheit, **as a regulated hazardous waste**.

All waste from this process can be placed into the same container. The container must be fire resistant, air tight, and labeled with the words "Hazardous Waste." Each table can have a "satellite collection" container that is air tight, and then must be disposed into the labeled storage container at the end of each shift and at the end of the business day. The generator is required to dispose of this waste properly through a business hazardous waste collection day (when applicable) or a hazardous waste hauler. Keep all disposal records/receipts from the hauler (or from business collection day) for a minimum of three years to show proof of proper disposal.

Nail Polish

A waste determination will need to be made before disposing of any nail polish container that does not meet the definition of empty. Review the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) [formerly Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)] on the nail polish to see if it has any hazardous characteristics. If the nail polish is determined to be hazardous, the generator is required to dispose of this waste properly through a business hazardous waste collection day (when applicable) or a hazardous waste hauler. Keep all disposal records/receipts from the hauler (or from business collection day) a minimum of three years to show proof of proper disposal.
If the polish container meets the definition of "empty", the container can be placed into the normal garbage.

Fluorescent Bulbs

Fluorescent bulbs/devices are considered hazardous waste because they contain the heavy metal **mercury**. However, if you recycle under the Universal Waste Regulations, fluorescent bulbs/devices do not qualify as hazardous waste. Please call the Pollution Prevention (P^2) Program for a list of fluorescent bulb recyclers and handling instructions. Caution: if a supplier tells you that their bulbs are environmentally safe, remember that they are trying to sell you a product, and that they may not be familiar with the State and Local regulations that pertain to the proper recycling or disposal of these mercury-containing bulbs. **Lamps or devices with any mercury must be recycled following the Universal Waste Regulations or disposed of following hazardous waste regulations.** Please refer to the Management of Spent Mercury-Containing Lamps and Devices handout for further details.

For storage of ignitable/flammable liquid products, contact your local Fire Marshall for specific storage requirements within that District.

If you have any questions, please call the Division of Natural Resources Management, Pollution Prevention (P^2) Program, at (239) 652-6126.