

Nail Salon Operations

Best Management Practices For

Hazardous Materials/Waste Handling

(Updated April 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. Some waste streams could be considered nonhazardous if properly recycled instead of disposed of in the trash or down the drain. Listed below are typical waste streams, 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.

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 is disposed into the storage container at the end of the business day.

Nail Polish- All Safety Data Sheets (SDS) [formerly Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)] reviewed to date on nail polish characteristics reveal that the polish is a hazardous material. If the polish is no longer utilized as it was manufactured and is to be disposed of, it is a hazardous waste. The polish can be poured into the waste nail polish remover container for proper storage and later disposal. Once 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 your fluorescent bulbs/devices, they do not qualify as hazardous. Please call the SQG 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.**

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 (P²) Program, at (239) 652-6126.