



Nail Salon Operations

Best Management Practices for Hazardous Materials/Waste Handling

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. Two options are available for the disposal of cotton balls, swabs or wipes containing acetone/nail polish. These options are listed below, along with procedures to help businesses comply with these regulations.

Waste Determination: A waste determination must be made prior to the disposal of any waste in order to identify hazardous wastes generated. Making a correct hazardous waste determination is important, and failure to make this determination is one of the most common violations found.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) contain information that can be used to make these determinations, including components and contaminants, and hazardous waste characteristics. A solid waste is a hazardous waste if it is specifically listed as a known hazardous waste or meets the characteristics of a hazardous waste. Listed wastes are wastes from common manufacturing and industrial processes, specific industries, and can be generated from discarded commercial products. Characteristic wastes are wastes that exhibit any one or more of the following characteristic properties: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity.

Labeling: Waste containers for hazardous waste must be marked with the words “Hazardous Waste” and the hazards of the contents (§40 CFR 262.14(a)(5)(viii)), including characteristic pictogram labels.

Record Keeping: All records for disposal or recycling of any hazardous or regulated waste must be kept for three years and readily available for inspectors to review. This includes any test results or other documentation showing a waste is hazardous or nonhazardous.

Types of Regulated Waste Streams:

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) 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.

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 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 rule allows for an alternative disposal option to treat the waste stream used to remove nail polish and/or artificial nails. The 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 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.

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) 533-8821

These Best Management Practices have been prepared by the P2 Program to summarize requirements related to this industry, but are not intended to be a complete reference to all applicable regulations.