



The following is a list of guidelines to help consumers understand what to look out for when seeking the services of a nail technician or visiting a nail salon.

The list highlights some of the specific procedures or treatment practices which are approved by APFA.

If you have any questions or comments, please email president@apfanails.com.au or visit www.apfanails.com.au

Before your treatment, take a look around you. Watch the other technicians, and how they work. Some things to look out for may include:

The salon floor and workstations should be generally clean and free of nail clippings, dust or debris.

You should be able to fully communicate with the salon staff and your technician. Your personal needs should be understood, and acted upon by your technician. Your therapist or technician should ensure a client consultation form or card is completed.

Fresh hand towels should be used for every client.

Tools and nail files **must not** be used from one client to the next without cleaning and disinfection or sterilisation (ask to witness disinfection, if you are unsure). If soaking in disinfection containers, liquid should not appear cloudy and container should be kept covered to minimise dust or other particles from contaminating the solution. Your very own file pack is **recommended**, although not mandatory. You may be offered to take your files home, so you know they have not been used on anyone else, or alternatively, many salons store them in individual non-airtight container or bag, with your client card.

The salon or technician should not use products from unlabeled or unmarked containers.

Salon restrooms (where available) must be clean and, as a minimum, a salon should provide a basin for washing your hands, along with liquid soap and paper towels – not a used hand towel.

If 'drills' are used at all, the 'bits' should be taken out of disinfecting solution in front of you and a new sanding band fitted, which should have no signs of prior use. APFA recommends that drills **never** be used on your natural nails EVER, regardless of the type of drill bit being used. If you experience pain, cuts or burns from the use of drills, stop the treatment and leave.

Nail technicians should **NEVER** use razors or blades on client's feet. If you see a razor or blade being used on a clients foot – then you should leave and contact your local council and APFA.



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Avoid Nail Technicians or Salon service providers who:

- Do not wash or sanitise yours AND their hands before performing a service
- Provide services to clients with infected fingers, nails, toenails or feet
- Provide services that are painful or cause damage your skin or nails.
- Cannot explain how they clean and disinfect their nail files, clippers, bits and tools when asked.
- Cannot explain how they clean and disinfect foot spas when asked.
- Do not have a log-book indicating when pedicure foot spas were cleaned and disinfected.
- Use an implement or other object to forcibly remove or “pry off” artificial nails.
- Do not provide each client with a clean and disinfected nailbrush for scrubbing underneath nails.
- Do not use a clean, freshly laundered or disposable towel.
- Will not show you current qualifications when you ask to see it.
- Say they are too busy to properly clean and disinfect their tools.
- Stick their fingers directly into jars or containers.
- Do not discuss concerns, ask questions and/or complete consultation before performing services.

Any questions or concerns about safety and hygiene within nail salons can be directed to president@apfanails.com.au