



FACT SHEET: Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

On a daily basis and for long hours, nail salon workers handle solvents, glues, polishes and other products containing a multitude of chemicals known or suspected to cause cancer, allergies, respiratory, neurological and reproductive harm. Women working in salons are increasingly reporting acute health concerns such as headaches, dizziness, rashes and breathing difficulties in addition to more serious and chronic problems such as miscarriages, birth defects, cancers and respiratory illnesses.

In California alone, there are 253,571 cosmetologists and approximately 125,000 licensed manicurists (ReferenceUSA 2015). Most are women of reproductive age and up to 80% are of Vietnamese descent. With approximately 2000 nail salons and 8,000 manicurists, Los Angeles County has the largest number of nail salon workforce members in the state.



Free Healthy Nail Salon Training in Santa Monica

Some of the most hazardous chemicals in nail salon products include the “Toxic Trio” (dibutyl phthalate, formaldehyde, and toluene). **Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)** is a reproductive and developmental toxicant. **Formaldehyde** causes cancer, is known to cause asthma and skin rashes, may be linked to reproductive harm, and irritates the eyes, nose, throat and skin. **Toluene** is a brain and a developmental toxicant that can cause headaches, dizziness, nausea, loss of short-term memory and may contribute to miscarriages. Nail polish manufacturers are starting to make competitively priced polishes without the Toxic Trio; yet other salon products still contain one or more of these chemicals.

WHAT IS THE HEALTHY NAIL SALON RECOGNITION PROGRAM?

The HNSRP is a voluntary incentive-based program to promote healthier and safer practices. Five California jurisdictions have established local Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Programs (HNSRP) with over 60 salons currently certified as Healthy Nail Salons in:

- Alameda County
- City and County of San Francisco
- San Mateo County
- Santa Clara County
- City of Santa Monica



Recognizing the first Healthy Nail Salons in Santa Monica with the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and SM Office of Sustainability and the Environment

WHAT ARE THE GUIDELINES FOR JOINING THE PROGRAM?

- Use nail polishes without the toxic-trio: dibutyl phthalate (DBP), toluene, and formaldehyde
- Safer nail polish removers without ethyl or butyl acetate, such as acetone.
- Avoid using nail polish thinners. Use those without toluene and methyl ethyl ketone.
- All nail salon staff should wear nitrile gloves when using nail products.
- Ventilate the salon. Designate a specific area for artificial nail services.
- Install a mechanical ventilation unit within 1 year of entering the program.
- Train all salon staff.

Nail salons that meet the requirements become officially certified, receive free media promotion, and qualify for financial rebates for a portable ventilation unit. Healthy nail salon certifications are renewed annually.



In 2015, U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy visited one of the first certified Healthy Nail Salons in Alameda County.

HOW DOES A SALON BENEFIT BY JOINING THE PROGRAM?

Salons that have joined the program were surveyed and we found that there were great benefits to joining the program.

- 84.6% felt they and their employees are healthier
- 61.5% have observed better air quality in their salons
- 42.3% feel their salon attracts and keeps more customers.
- 76.9% of the salons experienced an increase in new customers

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CONSUMERS SUPPORT HEALTHY NAIL SALONS!

- 97% of consumers surveyed would be more likely to frequent a “Healthy Nail Salon” recognized by a government agency
- 73% of consumers surveyed would pay up to \$4 more for a mani/pedi. 23% would pay up to \$5 more



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