Safety tips for beauty salons and barber shops

By assessing your business procedures and ensuring that your employees are adequately trained, you can create a safer workplace, reduce the risk of losses and help protect your business and your employees.

**Employees**

Do you:

- Do you have Material Safety Data Sheets for products to which employees will be exposed? Have you verified the personal protection to be used with each product?
- Enforce the use of protective gloves when working with preparations that could cause or aggravate skin irritations?
- Have adequate ventilation to remove mists or sprays that may be harmful?

**Customers**

Do you:

- Regularly inspect chair conditions, booster seat anchor bolts and safety straps?
- Provide smocks and towels - for all services - to protect clothing and skin?
- Routinely inspect grounding and wiring of electrical appliances?
- Have dryers guarded with an automatic cut-off switch to prevent overheating?
- Maintain availability of emergency exits - clear, adequately lit, highly visible?

**Shop location**

Do you:

- Routinely inspect parking and entranceways to verify smooth and adequately lit walking surfaces?
- Clearly mark traffic patterns?
- Store soiled towels, hair clippings and trash in closed metal containers?
- Have - and use - double cylinder deadlocks on all exterior doors?
- Have adequate electrical systems? Circuit breakers, no use of temporary extension cords in lieu of permanent wiring, fused power strips for multiple electrical connections?
- Have UL rated 2A:10BC fire extinguishers placed in every 3,000 sq. ft. of space? Are employees trained in their use?

**Services provided**

Do you:

- Use only brand name, quality products? Do you have purchase records to document the use of such material?
- Follow use and warning instructions provided by product manufacturers?
- Verify proper application instructions and product warnings for house labeled products? Has legal counsel reviewed them?
- Question customers about sensitivity to possible preparations to be used?
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☐ Maintain sufficient records to provide customers with the formulas of chemicals used in their services? Could this be provided to a physician for treatment of any rashes or other negative health effects?

☐ Organize your supply areas with clear labeling to avoid possibility of using the wrong product or formula?

☐ Verify the licensing and certifications of staff performing electrolysis or hair replacement services involving penetration of the skin?

For more information, log in to the Risk Control Customer Portal at travelers.com/riskcontrol. (Need help? Read our Registration Quick Guide.) You also can contact your Risk Control consultant or email Ask-Risk-Control@travelers.com.