



**BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY**

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **‘Safe Sandal Season’ Campaign Returns With Tips for a Safe Nail Salon Visit**

*Pedicures and other services put you at risk for infection  
without proper cleaning procedures*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – With warm weather and sandal season upon us, the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology has launched its annual “Safe Sandal Season” education campaign to explain how consumers can protect themselves and avoid health hazards while at nail salons.

“Foot spas used for pedicures are a big concern for us,” said Kristy Underwood, the board’s executive officer. “We’ve seen several bacterial infection outbreaks in California resulting from improper foot spa cleaning. The law requires that foot spas be scrubbed with liquid soap after every client, rinsed, then filled with water and disinfectant that is allowed to circulate through the basin for 10 minutes before draining and refilling for the next client.”

Ms. Underwood also offered some simple tips for salon patrons to protect themselves:

- DON’T shave your legs before your pedicure; this makes you more susceptible to nicks and cuts, which are gateways for bacteria. DON’T get a pedicure if you have broken skin or lesions on your lower legs.
- DON’T let a nail tech use any razor-edged tool to remove a callus. Your nail tech should smooth a callus, not remove it.
- DON’T allow any nail products containing Methyl Methacrylate (MMA) to be used on you. If you are in doubt, ask your nail tech if the product being used is MMA-free.
- DO look around to see if the salon is clean and free of visible trash.

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- DO make sure your technicians have a current manicurist or cosmetology license displayed at their workstation, and that the establishment's current license is posted in the reception area.
- DO ask to view the pedicure foot spa cleaning log. Make sure it was cleaned and disinfected after the last customer as required by law before you receive your service.
- DO be sure that only clean, disinfected instruments are used on you, and only brand-new buffers, emery boards, pumice stones and similar items that can't be disinfected.
- DO consult your doctor before getting a pedicure if you have a weakened immune system.

This [video](#) produced by the board shows what its inspectors look for during inspections, and what consumers should look for to protect themselves:

<https://youtu.be/M6LJrw6IKZM>.

The board's brochure titled "[Pedicure Safety Tips](#)" provides additional information to help ensure consumers have a safe pedicure experience ([www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/forms\\_pubs/publications/ped\\_broch.pdf](http://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/forms_pubs/publications/ped_broch.pdf)).

To verify a license, visit the board's website at [www.barbercosmo.ca.gov](http://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov).

*The Board of Barbering and Cosmetology regulates individuals (i.e. cosmetologists, barbers, manicurists, estheticians, electrologists, and apprentices) who provide services as well as the establishments where these services are performed. The board also provides education to consumers and licensees on the potential dangers that face consumers while receiving these services. Learn more at [www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/](http://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/).*

*The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) promotes and protects the interests of California consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. DCA helps consumers learn how to protect themselves from unscrupulous and unqualified individuals. The department also protects professionals (licensees) from unfair competition by unlicensed practitioners. Consumers can file complaints against licensees online at [www.dca.ca.gov](http://www.dca.ca.gov) or by contacting DCA at (800) 952-5210.*

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