



NEWS RELEASE

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Safe Sandal Season: Educating and Empowering California Consumers for More Than a Decade

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California's weather is getting warmer, which means it's time for #SafeSandalSeason. The California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology's (Board) annual campaign offers consumers safe nail salon practices and safety tips.

Though fun and relaxing, a pedicure can turn into a bad experience if the salon isn't using proper cleaning and disinfection techniques. Bacteria and other dangerous microorganisms could be lurking in a potentially dirty foot spa basin. Insect bites, scratches, scabs, or razor cuts can be gateways for those microorganisms to cause an infection, threatening your health.

For more than a decade, the Board's #SafeSandalSeason campaign has been educating and empowering California consumers with these 10 tips to ensure a healthy and fun pedicure experience:

1. **Look for the establishment license.** It must be valid and posted in plain sight, along with a message for consumers in the reception area.
2. **Look for the posted cosmetologist or manicurist license.** Always make sure the license is valid and posted at their workstation.
3. **Ensure the salon is neat and clean.** All salons are required to follow the California Department of Public Health and Cal OSHA industry guidelines, including the rules and regulations of the Board.
4. **Don't shave your legs 24 hours before a pedicure.** Shaving can lead to nicks and cuts, which can be gateways for bacteria. Anyone with broken skin or lesions on their lower legs is advised to not get a pedicure until they've healed.
5. **Cosmetologists and manicurists are required to wash their hands often.** It's OK to ask a manicurist to wash their hands before a pedicure.
6. **Make sure all metal tools and foot spa basins are disinfected.** Tools must always be properly disinfected. Improper disinfection or no disinfection can lead to the transfer of bacteria or infection. Consumers have the right

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to see the salon's cleaning and disinfection log. Wiping out the tub between clients isn't enough. For example, in the case of whirlpool foot spas and air-jet basins, special disinfectant must circulate through the equipment for 10 minutes between consumers.

7. **Buffers and files must only be used once.** Once used, they must be thrown out immediately. Don't let a manicurist file toenails with a used file or buffer.
8. **Refuse nail products that contain Methyl Methacrylate.** It can be identified by a strong odor.
9. **Don't let a cosmetologist or manicurist use a razor or sharp tool to remove a callus.** A manicurist can smooth a callus but cannot remove a callus. Removing a callus can cause harm.
10. **If you see something, say something.** Consumers can always file a complaint or report any concern to the Board.

This [video](#) produced by the Board also provides tips for consumers for a safe nail salon visit.

The Board's brochure "[Pedicure Safety Tips](#)" provides additional information to help ensure consumers have a safe pedicure experience. [Korean](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Vietnamese](#).

To verify a license, visit the Department of Consumer Affairs' license search tool at <https://search.dca.ca.gov/>.

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ABOUT THE BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY: *The Board of Barbering and Cosmetology regulates 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.*

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS: *The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) protects consumers through oversight, enforcement, and licensure of professions, and helps consumers learn how to protect themselves from unscrupulous and unqualified individuals. Consumers can verify a license and file a complaint against a licensee online at www.dca.ca.gov or by phone at (800) 952-5210.*