

Makeup Application

Makeup refers to temporary cosmetics that are applied to a person's face. Makeup application involves the use of various disposable items (e.g., facial sponges, cotton balls, tissues and single-use applicators) and reusable instruments (e.g., makeup brushes) to apply cosmetic products such as lipstick, eyelash tint, mascara, eye shadow, and foundation.

Infection risk:

Blood or body fluids do not need to be visible on equipment for microorganisms to enter the body at the procedure site and cause an infection. Potential sources of these microorganisms include:

- The use of makeup products contaminated during manufacturing or from consumer use;
- The use of contaminated and/or improperly reprocessed equipment;
- Contamination in the environment;
- Unclean hands touching treatment areas.

A client may also have an allergic reaction to one or more ingredients in cosmetic products. When the integrity of skin is disrupted via an allergic reaction response, this creates an additional risk for acquiring secondary infections.

Additional Considerations

Equipment:

- Wherever possible, a new, single-use applicator is to be used for each client and for each makeup product application, and discarded after use.
- Reusable instruments and equipment (e.g., silicone applicators, reusable makeup brushes, tweezers used to apply false lashes, glass containers used to hold eyelash tint) are to be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- If cosmetic products are applied from a multi-use container (e.g., lipstick or mascara tube), a new, single-use disposable applicator (e.g., mascara wand, lipstick applicator, sponge) is to be used each time the container is accessed during a procedure.
- Single-use applicators are to be used for all cosmetics applied to eyelashes and/or eyelids.
- For liquid makeup products (e.g., foundation, false eyelash glues, liquid blush or eye shadow, eyelash tint), the product is to be dispensed into a single-use or reusable container for each client. In this situation, a single-use or reusable applicator can be dipped into the container several times until the application is complete. Left-over product, the single-use container and disposable applicators should be discarded after each client. Reusable containers and applicators (e.g., silicone applicators, reusable makeup brushes) are to be cleaned and disinfected after use.
- Operators are not to use eyelash tint containing black henna (paraphenylenediamine; PPD) as it can cause serious allergic reactions if it comes into contact with skin.

- Powder makeup is to be applied using a single-use applicator (no double-dipping). Alternatively, powder makeup is to be dispensed into a single-use or reusable container for use on a single client, applied using a reusable makeup brush and any excess discarded.
- Single-use makeup brushes are preferred (where possible) as the large surface area of reusable makeup brushes makes these difficult to properly clean and disinfect. If reusable makeup brushes are used, these are not to be used on or near the eyes, are to be cleaned and disinfected after each use, and stored in a clean, closed container between uses.
- If cosmetic pencils (e.g., eyeliner, lip liner, eye shadow/eyebrow pencils) are used on multiple clients, these are to be sharpened after each use.

Client Safety:

- Operators are to assess the integrity of a client’s skin prior to applying cosmetic products. Services are to be refused or deferred if skin is inflamed or infected, or if a client presents with a rash or open wounds.
- Gloves or finger cots are to be worn if the operator will have contact with a client’s non-intact skin or mucous membranes (e.g., when applying eye makeup), but these are not required for routine procedures in which contact is limited to a client’s intact skin.

Reprocessing Classification

Non-critical Low-Level Disinfection	Various Single-Use, Disposable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables, chairs, beds • Reusable containers used to hold liquid makeup, • Sharpeners used to sharpen eyeliner, lip liner and other cosmetic pencils. • Reusable makeup brushes, eyelash curlers and tweezers • Reusable silicone makeup applicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cotton pads or balls • Finger cots • Sponges • Single-use personal protective equipment (gloves, masks, gowns, eye protection) • Bed/pillow covers (paper) • Cloth linen and towels - laundered after each use • Applicators for tint, makeup and ointment • Single-use makeup brushes (preferred) • Unused decanted products (e.g., eye lashes, makeup)

Sources

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Guide to infection prevention and control in personal service settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen’s Printer for Ontario; 2018.

This fact sheet is based on PSS best practice recommendations, current reprocessing standards and legislation. It is not an inclusive list of all requirements. Operators are responsible to ensure that all services are offered according to local requirements, best practices and legislation.