DPSCS - Cleaning and Disinfecting Barbering Tools - Guidelines

Disinfecting Clippers and Outliners

The decontamination of electrical tools such as clippers and outliners requires a different approach than the non-electrical tools and implements. Hair particles and bacteria become trapped between and behind clippers blades, so cleaning and disinfecting these tools is very important. Since clipper blades and outliners cannot be completely immersed in a water-based disinfectant and most spray disinfectants alone are not sufficient for thorough disinfection, products containing a petroleum distillate, such as a liquid blades wash are the usual choice for the decontamination procedure. Adhere to the following steps for decontaminating clipper and outliners:

1. Arrange all supplies, products, and tools on a clean work surface;
2. Pour blade wash into a glass, plastic, or disposable container wide enough to accommodate the width of the clipper blades to a depth of approximately ½ inch;
3. Remove all hair particles from clipper blades with a stiff brush;
4. Submerge only the cutting teeth of the clipper blades into the blade wash and turn the unit on. Run the blades in the solution until no hair particles are seen being dislodged from between the blades;
5. Remove the clippers and wipe the blades with a clean, dry towel;
6. Spray the clipper blade with a lubricant and/or spray clipper disinfectant. Grease or oil clipper parts as necessary;
7. Sanitize the conductor cord and store in a clean, closed container until needed for use; and
8. Follow these procedures before and after servicing each client.

Decontaminating Towel, Linens and Capes

Clean towels and linen shall be used for each client. All towels, linens, and capes that come into contact with a client shall be laundered with detergent and bleach according to label directions. Maintain a sufficient supply of these items for use in the barbershop to avoid the spread of infectious agents and particles. Clean towels, capes, and linen shall be stored in a dry clean area. Disposable neck strips shall be used to keep capes from touching the client's skin and should be disposed after each use.

Hand Washing

Hand washing is one of the most important and easiest ways to prevent the spread of germs from one person to another. Thorough hand washing requires rubbing the hands and under the nails with warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds and drying the hands with a clean paper towel. Moisturizing lotion can help prevent dry skin that may otherwise occur because of repeated hand washing.