

# Healthy Nail Salon Project

## Reducing Chemical Exposures in Nail Salons



**Local Hazardous Waste  
Management Program  
in King County, Washington**

# Working together to reduce chemical exposures



80% - Salons in King County are Vietnamese owned

Vietnamese-English language salon visits and workshops

Offer easy step-by-step guidance.



English

Vietnamese



English-Vietnamese Language Workshop for Nail Salon



# Nail Salon Booth



Vietnamese New Year (Tet)

# Water-based polish for little girls







# Healthy Nail Salon Project



Helping nail salon owners and technicians create a safe workplace.

## PROVIDES ASSISTANCE

To find financial help to improve

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Salon visits and hosted meetings to learn about your concerns and needs

Produced by  
  
King County Department of Public Health

as part of the local hazardous waste management program [www.lhwmp.org/hazardous](http://www.lhwmp.org/hazardous)  
[health/nail-salons.aspx](http://health/nail-salons.aspx)  
83-3061



Environmental [www.ecoss.org/nail-salons.html](http://www.ecoss.org/nail-salons.html)  
206-767-0432

about this  
schedule a visit  
call  
83-3061 or  
767-0432.

Full support from the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP)  
In Collaboration with:  
Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECCOSS)

# Voucher Program = \$\$

## Reimburse 50% up to \$500

Site visit required



\$ Glasses, gloves & N95 masks

\$ Storage containers

\$ 3-Free Nail polish

\$ Local exhaust ventilation



**3-Free Polish =  
No Formaldehyde,  
Toluene or  
dibutyl phthalate**



# Chemicals of concern



- Acrylic nails
  - asthma, skin, throat...
- Nail polish
  - Dibutyl phthalate (endocrine disruptor)
  - Formaldehyde (carcinogen)
  - Toluene (carcinogen)
- Nail polish removers
  - Toluene, acetone, xylene, MEK (headaches)





# Poor chemical storage & hygiene

- No lids on chemicals
- Waste containers left open
- Confused about sanitation/disinfection
- Poor ventilation
- Not aware of fire hazards



# Nail spa for kids?

## Kids in the salon


- Consider the risks
  - Infections
  - Chemical exposure
- Ask for 3-Free polishes
- Don't go if
  - Strong smell
  - Dirty
  - Can't answer how they clean the footspa



# Effects of size on response







# Nail salon chemicals

## 1% of poisonings in King County

qry_NailProducts_KC_CountByProduct	
Substance Details (Generic Description)	Number of Cases
Nail Polish	58
Nail Polish Remover: Unknown	29
Nail Polish Remover: Acetone	23
Nail Product: Other	10
Nail Polish Remover: Other	9
Acrylic Nail Adhesive	7
Acrylic Nail Primer	1

# How to find a safer salon



Is your favorite spa clean?





# Tech should clean & disinfect



**Ask clients to  
wash hands  
before & after  
treatment**

1. Wash hands before & after customers.
2. Clean towel for each customer
3. Wash client treatment areas with hospital-grade disinfectant (10% bleach).



# Don't let tech re-use tools on you!

Must throw away non-metal tools after each customer

- Nail files
- Buffers
- Buffing discs on electric files
- Wood cuticle sticks
- Toe separators (use paper separators)

Save money by cutting buffers in ½.



**Are the foot spas cleaned after each client?**







# Illegal to use



**Neck Brush – or Table Brush**



**Callus Remover**



Posted or available if you ask?

- Licensing Inspection Form
- Footspa – Whirlpool Cleaning Log
- Photo ID on nail tech license
- Business License



# Ask for healthier treatments



Toluene-formaldehyde-dibutyl pthalate, MEK free polishes

Choose treatment # 1 or 2 to be safer:

1. Manicure with nail polish using 3-free polish
2. Manicure with gel hybrid polish (sun-cured top coat)
3. Manicure with gel polish (UV lamp cured)
4. Manicure with hard gels (UV lamp cured)
5. Manicure with acrylics (chemical reaction cured)



# Healthy Nail Salon Recognition Program

**Goal:** To create a safe work place for King County nail salon technicians by rewarding nail salon businesses who safely handle, store and dispose of salon chemicals, improve ventilation and use safer chemicals.



**Laurie Foster**

[laurie.foster@kingcounty.gov](mailto:laurie.foster@kingcounty.gov)

Healthy  
Nail Salon  
Program



Local Hazardous Waste  
Management Program  
in King County, Washington

LHWMP\_0220  
11/19/14

# My Nail Salon & Spa - Bellevue



Salon owner and client



Certificate & Award

# Water-based nail polishes

## Links to water-based polishes online

- [Acquarella](#)
- [Honeybee Gardens](#)
- [Hopscotch Kids](#)
- [Scotch Naturals](#)
- [Suncoat](#)







# Healthy Nail Salon Program Webpages

- Video – Vietnamese and English
- Workshop slide shows
- Brochures – Vietnamese and English

[HazWasteHelp.org/health/nail-salons.aspx](http://HazWasteHelp.org/health/nail-salons.aspx)

Vietnamese workshop slide shows

[laurie.foster@kingcounty.gov](mailto:laurie.foster@kingcounty.gov) or 206-263-1652

# Healthy Nail Salon Project Contacts



**Local Hazardous Waste  
Management Program  
in King County, Washington**

Laurie Foster: 206-263-1652

[HazWasteHelp.org/health/nail-salons.aspx](http://HazWasteHelp.org/health/nail-salons.aspx)

Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS)

Vietnamese language: Tammy Dang: 425-502-1666