



Let's dispel a few myths.

1. Gloves snag clients' hair.

Snagging is unlikely if your gloves are smooth, non-latex and longer-length, as recommended by HSE, and if your gloves fit snugly.

2. Clients object to gloves.

Many people understand the importance of skin care and would have no objection to gloves.

3. Gloves cut into profit margins.

A pair of disposable non-latex gloves costs less than 10p, a very small proportion of the cost of a haircut/hair treatment. However, the costs associated with dermatitis could be considerable – you could lose clients, lose staff to sickness and in some cases lose staff for good.

4. Gloves make it difficult to detect water temperature.

Disposable non-latex gloves are made of lightweight material and, if they fit well, allow you to feel the temperature as you mix.

5. Some hand creams can act as barriers.

There are no true 'barrier' creams: chemicals will always reach the skin. However, moisturising creams used regularly as part of a skin care regime will help keep skin hydrated and supple, preventing dermatitis.

6. You need to toughen-up your hands by avoiding gloves.

Tough, hardened skin = damaged skin. Hardening is not an answer and will not prevent dermatitis.

7. Latex gloves are best.

Latex gloves can cause skin reactions and asthma. Many people, perhaps including your clients, are allergic to latex. In extreme cases people have died through anaphylactic shock from exposure to latex.



Preventing Dermatitis: Salon Checklist

Step 1. Wear disposable non-latex gloves when rinsing, shampooing, colouring, bleaching, etc.

- Choose a longer-length glove – folding the cuff back to stop water running down the arms
- Pick a smooth glove to stop hair snagging
- Have different sized gloves available and ensure a good fit
- Show staff how to remove gloves by peeling them down from the cuff, while avoiding touching skin with used gloves
- Make sure gloves are worn for cleaning spills
- Rotate jobs to minimise exposure for each member of staff
www.hse.gov.uk/skin/posters/singleusegloves.pdf

Step 2. Dry your hands thoroughly with a soft cotton or paper towel.

- Provide soft cotton or paper towels for drying hands
- Tell staff about the importance of thorough hand drying as part of their skin care regime

Step 3. Moisturise after washing your hands, as well as at the start and end of each day.

- Provide moisturising cream in a dispenser or give each of your staff their own supply
- Choose fragrance-free moisturisers, as some people can be sensitive to perfumes
- Encourage staff to make sure all areas are covered – it's easy to miss fingertips, finger webs, and wrists
www.hse.gov.uk/skin/posters/skinmethod.pdf

Step 4. Change gloves between clients.

- Make sure staff don't re-use gloves – the skin can be contaminated if you try to put them back on
- Advise your staff to change gloves between clients – this gives the skin a chance to 'air'

Step 5. Check skin regularly for early signs of dermatitis.

- Get into the habit of checking your own skin and reminding staff to check theirs
www.hse.gov.uk/skin/posters/skindermatitis.pdf

