

# Health and Safety Requirements Skin Penetration Premises

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## INTRODUCTION

Premises conducting skin penetration procedures must be approved, and registered with Council. These premises will be regularly inspected by Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) to ensure that:

1. The premises are maintained in a safe and hygienic condition; and
2. Operators conduct procedures safely to minimise risk to the health of their clients.

This guideline summarises the legislative requirements and applies to all commercial premises and mobile operators. It also contains best practice examples on the design and fit out of a skin penetration premises.

## BACKGROUND

The *Public Health Act 2010* (the Act) and *Public Health Regulation 2012* (the Regulation) regulates body decorating and grooming practices that penetrate the skin and are carried out by people who are not registered as health professionals. For the purpose of this guideline, regulated body decorating and grooming industries include:

- Waxing, nail services, microdermabrasion, skin needling, electrolysis;
- Body, nose and ear piercing;
- Colonic lavage;
- Cosmetic enhancements; and
- Tattooing.

The Act and Regulation:

1. Specifies procedures to prevent disease transmission;
2. Requires operators to be registered with the local council; and
3. Supports EHO's to carry out hygiene inspections.

Hairdressing and other body decorating and grooming practices which do not deliberately pierce the skin are not regulated under this legislation but may still be subject to health and planning requirements. Any such proposal should be discussed with Council.

## WORKFLOW and ADEQUATE SPACE

In well designed premises, the risks of cross contamination are managed by having an appropriate work flow, from dirty areas to clean areas (See Diagram 1 on page 2).

It is good practice to consider the following when designing the layout of your premises:

- A flow pattern to prevent recontamination of equipment that has been cleaned after use on a client and prior to re-use on another client;

- Ample bench space to assist with preparation prior to a procedure and cleaning of equipment afterwards. Adequate storage space for cleaned equipment, and/or sterile equipment;
- Adequate storage for other equipment, e.g. staff personal belongings, cleaning equipment and chemicals;
- Lighting and ventilation, which is appropriate <sup>\*2</sup>.

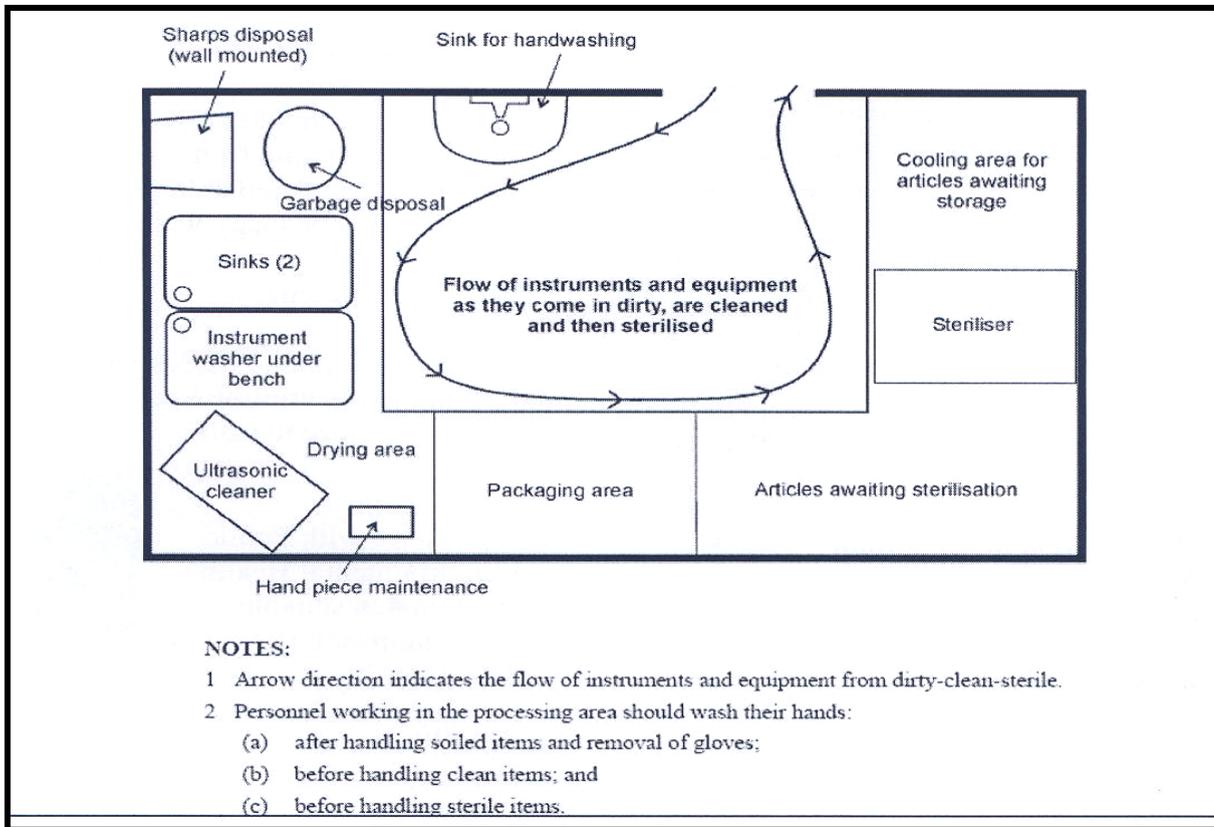


Diagram 1: Example of a well designed reprocessing room <sup>\*3</sup>

## PREMISES DESIGN

It is essential, that skin penetration procedures being carried out, are done so in properly designed and constructed premises (see diagram 2 on page 3).

The basic principles are summarised here:

- The **floor and walls** of the treatment room shall be constructed of material that is durable, smooth, easily cleaned and impervious to moisture;
- A **hand wash basin**, with running cold and hot water through a single spout, is to be located **in each treatment room**;
- Provide **soap**<sup>#</sup> and **single use disposable paper towels** at each of the hand wash basins;
- The premises shall have a **cleaning sink** (separate from sink for washing kitchen utensils and the hand wash basin); with hot and cold water running through a single spout, solely for the cleaning reusable equipment.

<sup>#</sup> or other appropriate hand washing substance.

**NOTE:** For more detailed information on premises design, please refer to the web links in page 4 of this fact sheet.

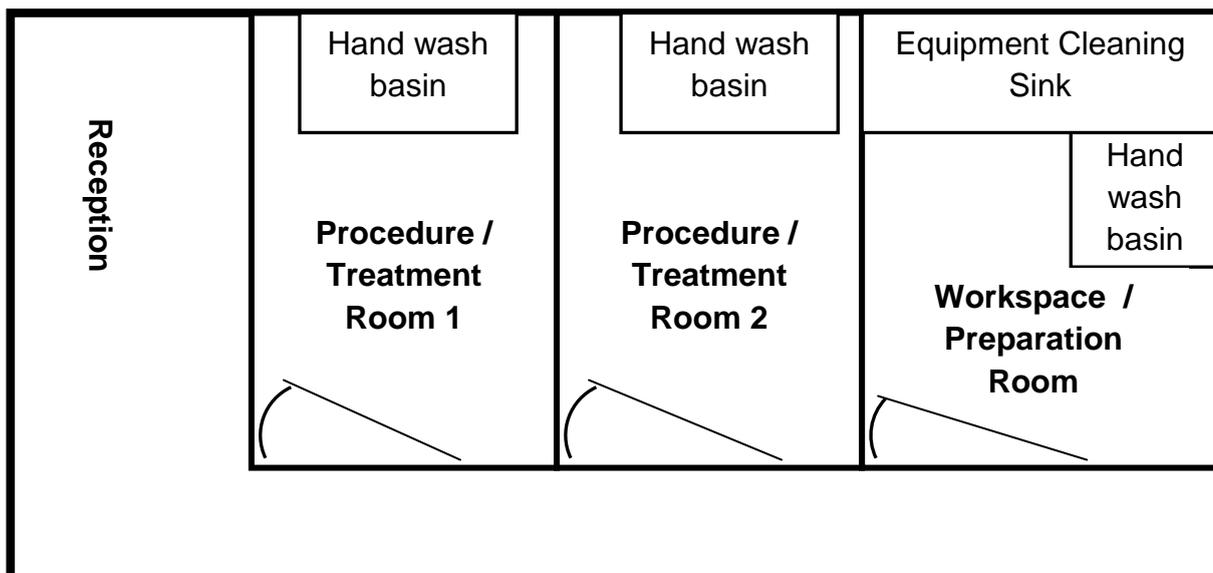


Diagram 2: Example of a typical premises layout \*1

## WASTE

- **Store** all waste generated in a suitable container with a lid, ideally operated by a foot pedal.
- **Dispose** razor blades, lancets, syringes, needles, disposable ear piercing equipment and any other sharp single use equipment into an AS/NZS 4261:1994<sup>#</sup> or AS/NZS 4031:1992<sup>#</sup> approved sharps container immediately after use.
- Sharps containers are clinical waste, and must be disposed of through a NSW DECC\*<sup>4</sup> licensed clinical waste contractor.

## CLEANING AND STERILISING EQUIPMENT

Cleaning and sterilising of equipment are important to prevent potential disease transmission to clients. The following table outlines how items are required to be cleaned and sterilised.

Equipment	Clean	Sterilise	Why
Reusable equipment that does not penetrate the skin	Yes	No	Does <b>not</b> penetrate the skin
Single use equipment that does not penetrate the skin	No	No	Single use equipment, required to be disposed after one use
Reusable equipment that penetrates the skin e.g. reusable cuticle cutters	Yes	Yes	Penetrates the skin
Pre-sterilised single use equipment that penetrates the skin	No	No	Sterile, and Single Use Equipment. To be disposed after one use

## SOME OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES

- Sterilisation = Autoclave or Dry Heat Steriliser
- Cleaning = hot water, detergent or cleaning agent, AND physical or mechanical action.
- An **ultraviolet light (U/V) cabinet** is **NOT** a steriliser.

## KEEPING OF RECORDS

Records	Autoclave	Dry Heat Steriliser
Date & Time of sterilising	Yes	Yes
Items sterilised (no. of items, batch no. etc.)	Yes	Yes
Maximum pressure	Yes	No
Maximum temperature	Yes	Yes
Length of time item sterilised at maximum pressure	Yes	No
Length of time item sterilised at maximum temperature	Yes	Yes
Maintenance and servicing history (to manufacturer's specifications)	Yes	Yes

## WHERE TO NOW?

Should you wish to proceed and seek approval from Council for a Skin Penetration business you are required to contact Council's Duty Town Planner for further instructions on 9843 0555.

**Please note that the matters referred to in this fact sheet relate to the basic requirements only. Council's Building, Planning, and Environmental Health requirements will be considered individually.** Should you have any further questions relating to skin penetration please do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Health Team on 9834 0555 during business hours.

## LEGISLATION

- *Public Health Act 2010*; and
- *Public Health Regulation 2012*.

The links to the above legislation, plus fact sheets & information may be found at the NSW Department of Health Website:

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/environment/general/body\\_grooming.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/environment/general/body_grooming.asp)

Council's registration application form for a Beauty Salon, Nail Salon or other Skin Penetration business may be found at the below web address, as well as other relevant fact sheets:

<http://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Hairdressing-Beauty-Salons-and-Skin-Penetration.html>

## References

- \*1 Reproduced from 'Skin Penetration General Requirements for Operating a Skin Penetration Establishment; Environmental Health Guide'. (Environmental Health Directorate, Department of Health, WA, 2006)
- \*2 Reproduced from '*Safe & Hygienic Work Environments*', 2008, City of Charles Sturt.
- \*3 Reproduced from 'Cleaning , Disinfection, Sterilisation. A guide for Office-Based Practice'. (Lochead, L. 1998)
- \*4 Department of Environment and Climate Change
- # AS/NZS 4815:2006: Reusable containers for the collection of sharp items used in human and animal medical applications or AS 4031:1992 Non-reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in health care areas.