



Nail Salons as Your Neighbor or Tenant

12 Simple Nail Salon Fresh Air Guidelines YOU can Follow:

1. Right-to-know training for workers to communicate the risk of products used. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) must be reviewed by ownership with their employees and copies maintained on-site.
2. Substitution of less toxic, volatile products during purchasing. 30 states have restricted or banned the use of liquid methyl methacrylate monomer; an ingredient used in some artificial nail products.
3. Providing adequate general ventilation of at least 25 CFM outside air per person in the work space. The nail salon must not share a common HVAC system or duct work with another tenant space.
4. *Installation of source capture ventilation systems at the manicure and pedicure stations. Special attention must also be focused on where products are mixed. A whole room salon air purifier designed specifically to remove salon vapors/odors and nail dust should be used to cleanse the salon air.
5. Installation of filters designed specifically to remove salon vapors and dusts from the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system are strongly recommended. A building's ventilation system, whether in a strip mall or a stand-alone structure, is called the HVAC system. This stands for Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning. This is your first line of attack. The HVAC system brings fresh air to the salon and pushes it from one room to another.
6. Dispensing products in small containers with openings just large enough for the application brush. Keep lids on product containers sealed during non-use.

7. Discarding waste properly and promptly. Chemical-soaked gauze pads and cotton balls should be placed in a sealed bag before dispensing of them in a metal trash can. The lid should be self-closing and the trash can liner changed at least daily. Proper storage of chemicals.
8. Frequent washing of hands. Nitrile safety gloves should be worn that are resistant to solvents. Latex gloves do not protect against solvent exposure.
9. Good personal hygiene by workers including no eating, drinking or smoking at their work stations or near stored chemicals.
10. **Checking the pressure differential between the nail salon and adjacent tenant space. The nail salon should be at negative pressure in relation to the adjacent space. Walls separating the salon from other business should have no holes, gaps and cracks (including above the drop ceiling).
11. Reviewing ventilation discharge points from the nail salon for potential re-circulation of solvent vapors in adjacent tenant HVAC systems or windows/doors.
12. Disposal of unwanted nail polish, waste acetone and other solvent/chemical waste products as hazardous waste. Acetone and other waste products must not be poured down the sink or toilet or put into general trash.

*According to internationally known salon industry scientist and chemist, Doug Schoon:

"If you are working with a source capture ventilation system (SCV); you don't want or need to use a face mask. Even a high quality, properly fitting N-95 dust mask won't work as well as a source capture ventilation system. Why? When properly fitted, an N-95 dust mask WILL protect against inhalation of tiny airborne dust particles, but NOT vapors. SCV systems prevent exposure by collecting both dusts and vapors- keeping both out of the nail technician's breathing zone and salon air.



When properly maintained and the carbon filters are changed regularly, SCV systems are a great way to help ensure salon air quality remains safe and everyone is breathing comfortably during working hours. Several dust collecting systems are great too and in general, I do recommend their use in salons. Even so, dust collection systems should be used in conjunction with another ventilation system which lowers exposure to vapors. Both dusts and vapors must be properly controlled. SVC systems do both, which is why I fully support their use in salons."

**To avoid spreading chemical vapors to neighboring businesses, nail salons should not share the same ventilation system with another business and should be under negative air pressure in relation to adjacent spaces. To maintain negative pressure, the salon should exhaust slightly more air than is supplied so that any leakage of vapors will not enter adjacent businesses.

LANDLORDS....

Acetone, other nail polish removers and nail polishes are flammable. The aforementioned controls are also essential to minimize potential fire hazards. Fire department regulations vary from city to city including how much flammable liquid you are allowed to store at your business and if you are required to store flammables in a fireproof cabinet.

Nail Manufacturers Council on Safety "Guidelines For Controlling And Minimizing Inhalation Exposure To Nail Products"

[https://aerovexsystems.com/images/uploads/files/Guidelines for Controlling and Minimizing Inhalation Exposure to Nail Products NMC.pdf](https://aerovexsystems.com/images/uploads/files/Guidelines_for_Controlling_and_Minimizing_Inhalation_Exposure_to_Nail_Products_NMC.pdf)

How to Improve Indoor Air Quality for Salons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S--oNVNk7BA>

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