

SAFETY IN THE BEAUTY SALON



A hair and beauty salon can be a dangerous workplace because of the tools, equipment, and chemical products used in treatments. For this reason, all employees must understand possible safety risks and follow safe working practices. Both employers and employees are legally responsible for maintaining a safe environment.

You must always act responsibly and make sure your behaviour does not create a safety hazard. If you notice something unsafe, you should take action to correct it and report it to your supervisor, even if you were not the person who caused the problem.

A **hazard** is anything that can potentially cause harm, and it must be reported. **Risk** refers to how likely it is that the hazard will actually cause harm. For example, scissors left at the edge of a work surface are a hazard; the risk is that they could fall and injure someone.

Salons contain many potential hazards: scissors, hot wax, chemical products, dyes for hair or eyelashes, electrical appliances, tweezers, blades, and glass tools. These items are safe when used correctly, but dangerous if handled carelessly.

Types of hazards:

- **Physical hazards:** caused by objects being out of place or used incorrectly.
- **Chemical hazards:** substances that can harm the body through skin contact, inhalation, or accidental ingestion.
- **Biological hazards:** bacteria, viruses, fungi, or bodily fluids that may cause infections or diseases.

Safety gear used in salons includes:

- **Gloves:** protect hands from chemicals and contamination.
- **Goggles:** protect the eyes from splashes or debris.
- **Apron:** prevents skin or clothing from coming into contact with products.
- **Ear protection:** reduces noise from loud equipment.
- **Face mask:** prevents inhalation of dust, fumes, and helps reduce cross-infection.
- **Non-slip shoes:** prevent slipping on wet floors and protect feet from falling tools

1. Find in the text a word meaning the same as...

a) secure (free from danger) (adj.) _____ b) conduct (n.) _____
c) damage (n.) _____ d) hurt _____ e) without attention (adv.) _____
f) act of breathing in (n.) _____ g) act of swallowing (n.) _____

2. According to the text, are the following statements True (T) or False (F)? Correct the false ones.

1. If you ignore a dangerous situation in the salon, you may still be considered responsible for what happens. _____
2. A hazard always causes harm. _____
3. Tools and products at a beauty salon may be dangerous. _____
4. Bodily fluids are considered physical hazards. _____
5. Wearing safety gear means a worker can ignore other safety procedures. _____

3. Fill in the gaps with words from the text. Write one word per gap.

1. A(n) _____ protects your clothes and skin from coming into contact with products.
2. Chemical products can enter the body through the skin, through _____ or through ingestion.
3. Bacteria, viruses, and fungi are examples of _____ hazards.
4. Salon workers wear _____ to protect their eyes from splashes.
5. Wearing _____ shoes helps prevent slipping on wet floors.

4. In your own words, explain the difference between a hazard and a risk.

5. Match the words to their definition. Then label the pictures with the correct number.

1. Gloves	a. A pair of shoes with textured soles, standing on a wet floor.
2. Goggles	b. Hands wearing protective gloves.
3. Apron	c. A person wearing a mask covering nose and mouth.
4. Ear protection	d. Glasses that protect eyes from splashes.
5. Face mask	e. Protective garment worn over the front of other clothes.
6. Non-slip shoes	f. Earmuffs or earplugs to reduce loud noise.

