



*Instructor Guide*

*Georgia Department of Technical  
and Adult Education*

# **Decontamination and Infection Control**

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Published December 2002  
(C121002)



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# Decontamination and Infection Control

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## Introduction

Infection and disease control is one of the most important aspects of being a professional salon operator or owner. Federal and state laws govern what must be done by operators and owners to ensure the safety of the public and that no germs are allowed to spread uncontrolled.

This unit will provide trainees with the necessary elements to help control dangerous disease-causing germs. By following some very important basic procedures and by providing a clean salon it will be easy to provide your clients with the very best professional care without the fear of your clients becoming infected by a disease agent. It is important to understand that the removal of all disease-causing germs in a salon will be almost impossible, but the control of dangerous levels is the key to providing a safe salon.



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## **Objectives**

Upon completion of this class, trainees will be able to discuss the importance of:

- Decontamination
- Sanitation, disinfecting, and sterilization
- Use of disinfectant products
- Using disinfectants in the salon
- Salon professionalism.

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## **Professional Salon Environment**

Let's take a close look and see what can be done to identify and control the professional salon environment. Things like tables, chairs, walls, and floors are very likely contaminated with a number of germs that may be very serious disease-causing germs. There may be millions of germs present that do not affect humans when contact is made. However, one case of an infected client can send your career and the reputation of your salon downward. By understanding contamination and knowing the proper techniques of decontamination, shop operators and owners can avoid ugly lawsuits and having the business they worked hard to build destroyed.



It is important to understand the more people that enter the salon environment, the greater the chance that new germs will be introduced and reintroduced as a result of the human contact factor. Control over where and what people do before they get to the salon is impossible to monitor, so contamination concerns must be continuous and ongoing.

Your responsibility as a professional to eliminate and control contamination is vital.

***Decontamination*** of surfaces and tools used in the salon will allow for a safe and professional experience for the client. Contamination can occur in many forms and on the surface of equipment, implements, and furnishings may not show signs of contamination. Soiled towels, combs, brushes, and even clippers can and more than likely are sources for contamination if not disinfected or sterilized properly.

Sanitation and disinfection are required in the salon to provide a safe environment for clients, co-workers, employees and oneself. Sanitation is the removal of large amounts of living organisms from a surface. By sanitizing tools and other items used in the salon, bacteria and germs are eliminated or lowered to safer levels. Popular forms of sanitation are described below.

- The **Heat steam of an autoclave** has been used for many years and has proven to be one of the most dependable forms of sanitizing.
- **Hospital-grade disinfectants** are used to sanitize surfaces and tools as well.
- **Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (quats)** are available in liquid or tablet form. Implements should be immersed for 20 minutes or longer to ensure elimination of germs and bacteria.
- **Glutaraldehyde** is a germicidal used to disinfect and sterilize implements that cannot be heat sterilized.



- **Ethyl Alcohol** is used as a disinfectant. In order to remain effective, the strength of ethyl alcohol should be no less than 70%.
- **Bleach (sodium hypochlorite)**, commonly known as house hold bleach, has for many years been utilized as a disinfectant at killing germs. As a result of more advanced techniques now being used, bleach is not the preferred method for decontamination. It is, however, very effective on floors, sinks, and general cleaning around the salon.
- **Ultrasonic Cleaners** are used in some salons but must be used with a **disinfectant**. The advantage of this device is that it may reach tiny crevices that may otherwise be omitted in the cleaning and sanitizing process.
- **Disinfection** is also a part of operating a safe salon. **Disinfection** is used when objects can be damaged due to exposure to extreme heat. Disinfection kills microorganisms with the exception of spores. It is important to understand that disinfectants should never be used on clients.

**Note:** It is important that directions are followed when using disinfectants. When directions are not followed money can be wasted. Furthermore, by not following directions properly, the product that is to be disinfected may not be if a solution is too weak. It is also important to understand that the disinfectant solution always remain at an effective level. In saying this, always remember to wash all products to be disinfected with soap and water. If you attempt to disinfect soiled implements, the solution may become too weak to do an effective job.





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## **Safety Precautions**

Remember that disinfectants are industrial strength cleaners that are powerful and can be harmful if used improperly. Never use a disinfectant to clean your hands. This is an unsafe practice and can cause skin disease. You should wear protective equipment such as gloves and safety goggles while mixing chemicals for disinfection control. Use soaking baskets and tongs to insert and remove equipment in disinfectant solutions. Always remember to clearly mark containers that are used for storing disinfectants.

Look at the following definition.

Sanitation is the process of reducing the levels of pathogens found on a surface. While the surface may be clean, there are still many microorganisms residing on the surface.



# Material Safety Data Sheet (M.S.D.S.)

Every chemical used in the United States must have an M.S.D.S. report developed by the manufacturer that developed the chemical. The purpose of the M.S.D.S. is to report the product name, active ingredients, directions for use, and safety instructions in case of accidents involving the chemical. The following is a break down of the sections on an M.S.D.S. report.

Product information of the chemical is listed at the very start of the report. The Manufacturer's/Distributor emergency contact number(s) along with product identity, product code number, product use, and hazard classification.

*Section 1* is a listing of the hazardous ingredients found in the product along with specific ingredient codes.

*Section 2* is the characteristics both physical and chemical of the product in general. These characteristics include but are not limited to physical state (liquid or solid), odor appearances like smell and color of product.

*Section 3* is fire and explosion hazard information on the product. Usually the fire/flame point will be listed and the level of danger to which this product will burn. Also, the extinguishing procedures are listed here in case there is a need to control a chemical fire as a result of this product.

*Section 4* is the reactivity data section. This section lists chemical(s), which this product must not come in contact with to ensure the product remains stable.

*Section 5* lists the health hazards and if special precautions need to be followed. This section discusses or lists exposure concerns and first aid procedures to follow in case of an accident.



**Section 6** lists control and protective measures that will need to be followed to ensure safe use of the product or chemical.

**Section 7** are control measures and precautions on the product. Safe handling is necessary to ensure that accidents are minimized. Waste disposal is also listed in this area.

**Section 8** is the regulatory information for the product. A listing of active ingredients that must be reported and a record maintained on file (M.S.D.S.).

Below is an example of an M.S.D.S.



**The Clorox Company**  
 7200 Johnson Drive  
 Pleasanton, California 94588 □  
 Tel. (510) 847-8100

## Material Safety Data Sheet

<b>Product:</b> CLOROX GERMICIDAL BLEACH							
<b>Description:</b> CLEAR, LIGHT YELLOW LIQUID WITH CHLORINE ODOR							
<b>Other Designations</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>						
EPA Registration No. 5813-1 Sodium hypochlorite solution Liquid chlorine bleach Clorox Liquid Bleach	The Clorox Company 1221 Broadway Oakland, CA 94612						
<b>Emergency Telephone No.</b>							
Rocky Mountain Poison Center (800) 446-1014 □ For Transportation Emergencies Chemtrec (800) 424-9300							
<b>II Health Hazard Data</b>	<b>III Hazardous Ingredients</b>						
Causes substantial but temporary eye injury. May irritate skin. May cause nausea and vomiting if ingested. Exposure to vapor or mist may irritate nose, throat and lungs. The following medical conditions may be aggravated by exposure to high concentrations of vapor or mist; heart conditions or chronic respiratory problems such as asthma, chronic bronchitis or, obstructive lung disease. Under normal consumer use conditions the likelihood of any adverse health effects are low.  <u>FIRST AID:</u> <u>EYE CONTACT:</u> Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water. If irritation persists, see a doctor. <u>SKIN CONTACT:</u> Remove contaminated clothing. Wash area with water. <u>INGESTION:</u> Drink a glassful of water and call a physician. <u>INHALATION:</u> If breathing problems develop remove to fresh air.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Ingredients</th> <th>Concentration</th> <th>Worker Exposure Limit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Sodium hypochlorite CAS # 7881-52-9</td> <td>5.25%</td> <td>not established</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>None of the ingredients in this product are on the IARC, NTP or OSHA carcinogen list. Occasional clinical reports suggest a low potential for sensitization upon exaggerated exposure to sodium hypochlorite if skin damage (e.g. irritation) occurs during exposure. Routine clinical tests conducted on intact skin with Clorox Liquid Bleach found no sensitization in the test subjects.</p>	Ingredients	Concentration	Worker Exposure Limit	Sodium hypochlorite CAS # 7881-52-9	5.25%	not established
Ingredients	Concentration	Worker Exposure Limit					
Sodium hypochlorite CAS # 7881-52-9	5.25%	not established					
<b>IV Special Protection and Precautions</b>	<b>V Transportation and Regulatory Data</b>						
<u>Hygienic Practices:</u> Wear safety glasses. With repeated or prolonged use wear gloves.  <u>Engineering Controls:</u> Use general ventilation to minimize exposure to vapor or mist.  <u>Work Practices:</u> Avoid eye and skin contact and inhalation of vapor or mist.  Keep out of reach of children.	<u>U.S. DOT Hazard Class:</u> Not restricted  <u>U.S. DOT Proper Shipping Name:</u> Hypochlorite solution with not more than 7% available chlorine. Not Restricted per 49CFR172.101(c)(12)(iv)  <u>Section 313 (Title III Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act):</u> As a consumer product, this product is exempt from supplier notification requirements under Section 313 Title III of the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1988 (reference 40 CFR Part 372).						
<b>VI Spill or Leak Procedures</b>	<b>VII Reactivity Data</b>						
<u>Small Spills</u> (<5 gallons) (1) Absorb, containerize, and landfill in accordance with local regulations. (2) Wash down residual to sanitary sewer.*  <u>Large Spills</u> (>5 gallons) (1) Absorb, containerize, and landfill in accordance with local regulations; wash down residual to sanitary sewer.* -OR- (2) Pump material to waste drum(s) and dispose in accordance with local regulations; wash down residual to sanitary sewer.*  * Contact the sanitary treatment facility in advance to assure ability to process washed-down material.	Stable under normal use and storage conditions. Strong oxidizing agent. Reacts with other household chemicals such as toilet bowl cleaners, rust removers, vinegar, acids or ammonia containing products to produce hazardous gases, such as chlorine and other chlorinated species. Prolonged contact with metal may cause pitting or discoloration.						
<b>VIII Fire and Explosion Data</b>	<b>IX Physical Data</b>						
Not flammable or explosive. In a fire, cool containers to prevent rupture and release of sodium chlorate.	Boiling point ----- 212°F, 100°C Specific Gravity (H <sub>2</sub> O) ----- 1085 Solubility in Water ----- complete pH ----- 11.4						



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## **Organizing an M.S.D.S. Notebook**

Suggestions for setting up an M.S.D.S. notebook include:

- Using a three-ring binder that pages can easily be placed in or removed from.
- Highlighting specific areas to identify key aspects of the M.S.D.S. report within the notebook. (see example)
- Alphabetizing the M.S.D.S. reports so that locating the sheets will be fast.
- Clearly mark the notebook on all sides to indicate it as the M.S.D.S. notebook.
- Use a white or bright colored notebook so it can be easily identified as the M.S.D.S. Notebook.
- When ordering products for the first time, request the company send you a product sheet (M.S.D.S.) page to add to your notebook.
- Remove any M.S.D.S. reports when the product is no longer used in the salon.
- Establish an emergency contact sheet that will be the very first page in your M.S.D.S. notebook. List the local emergency numbers for your salon area.
- Add the Centers for Disease Control and the National Poison Control Center to the emergency contact page.
- Have a sheet that states your salon operators have read and understand the concept of the M.S.D.S. notebook and have them sign a form stating the information has been read. Keep a copy of this form in their employment file.
- Make sure the M.S.D.S. Notebook is located in a place where all employees have access to it and they are aware of its location.