

# SR11

## COSHH essentials for service and retail



This information will help employers (including the self-employed and franchisees) comply with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH), as amended, to control exposure and protect workers' health. It is also useful for trade union safety representatives.

This sheet describes good practice. It covers the points you need to follow to reduce exposure to an adequate level. It is important to follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

Read labels and instructions for use. For cosmetic products - cross-check manufacturers' product lists with the booklet 'A Guide to the Health and Safety of Salon Hair Products' and follow its guidelines (see Further information). For other products, eg disinfectants, get a safety data sheet from your supplier and seek safer substitutes.

Prevent dermatitis developing.

Prevent exposure to substances that can cause asthma, and control exposure to stop asthma attacks.

### Main points

- Frequent wet work can cause dermatitis.
- Some hair products can cause allergic reactions (asthma and dermatitis).
- Check that all the controls are being used properly.

# Hairdressing

## Harm via skin or eye contact

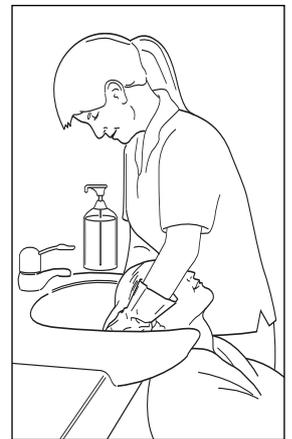
### Access and premises

- ✓ Keep the workplace well ventilated, with a through draught.
- ✓ Provide good washing facilities.

### Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- ✓ Ask your supplier to help you get the right PPE.
- ✓ Provide protective gloves - select powder-free vinyl gloves 300 mm long.
- ✓ Throw away single-use gloves every time they are taken off.
- ✓ Skin creams are important for skin condition. They help in washing contamination from the skin. After-work creams help to replace skin oils.

Caution: 'barrier creams' do not make a full barrier.



### Procedures

- ✓ If possible, avoid dusty products - buy granules, pastes or solutions.
- ✓ Store products securely in a cool, dry, dark place, capable of keeping in spills. Don't store far more than you need.
- ✓ Read the instructions on labels carefully - follow the instructions for use.
- ✓ Keep products off your skin - wear gloves and wash off any splashes immediately.
- ✓ Make up only as much solution as you will need for immediate use.
- ✓ Dispose of safely all products you no longer need.

### Special care

- ✓ Skin contact with products may cause dermatitis.
- ✓ Wet work - hand immersion, particularly frequent contact with water and soap or detergent also causes dermatitis. Dry hands thoroughly.
- ✓ Some hair dyes can pass through skin. Wear gloves for washing off, too.
- ✓ Some dusty ingredients, eg persulphates and henna, may cause asthma. Use dust-free products.
- ✓ Some hairspray products can make existing asthma worse.

### Maintenance, examination and testing

- ✓ Wash out mixing equipment after use. Dispose of this waste liquid safely.

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### Health surveillance

- ✓ Check if any information about the product says 'may cause sensitisation by skin contact' or 'can cause allergic reactions'. If so, or there is extensive wet work, do health surveillance for dermatitis - see sheet G403.
- ✓ Dry hands thoroughly after any wet work. Ask workers to check their skin for dryness or soreness every month, if they are not under health surveillance.
- ✓ There is a chance of asthma developing through work with some types of product. Check if any information about the product says 'may cause sensitisation by inhalation' or 'can cause allergic reactions'. If so, do health surveillance for asthma - see sheet G402.

### Cleaning and housekeeping

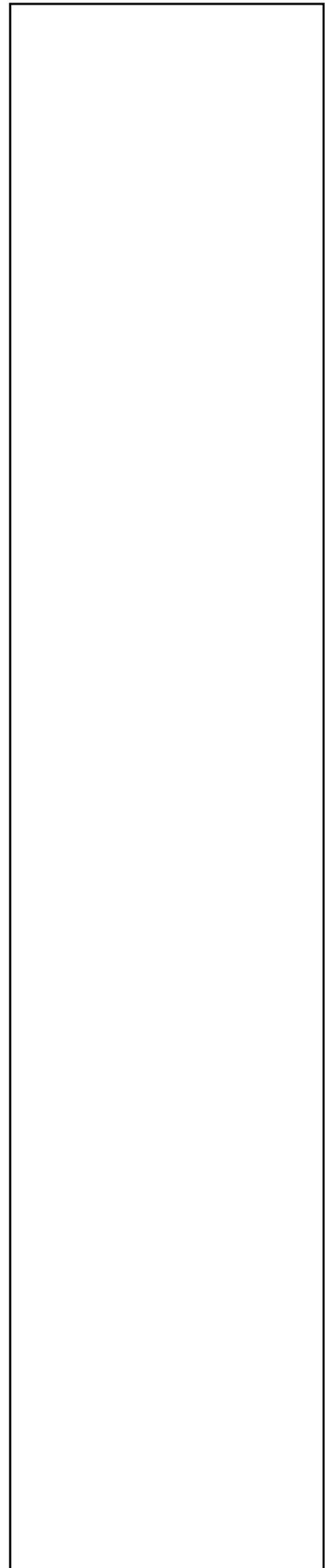
- ✓ Keep the work area clean.
- ✓ Disinfect shower heads once a week.
- ✓ Clean up spills promptly - practise how to do this.
- ✓ Dispose of empty containers and wastes safely.

### Training and supervision

- ✓ Tell workers about the risks of using the product - see products labels or the supplier's safety information.
- ✓ Working in the right way and using the controls correctly is important for exposure control. Train and supervise workers. See sheet SR0.

### Further information

- *A Guide to the health and Safety of Salon Hair Products* Available from hair product manufacturers or the Hair & Beauty Suppliers Association. Hair product manufacturers also supply their customers with product lists that go with the guide.
- *Assessing and managing risks at work from skin exposure to chemical agents: Guidance for employers and health and safety specialists* HSG205 HSE Books 2001 ISBN 0 7176 1826 9
- *Preventing dermatitis at work: Advice for employers and employees* Leaflet INDG233 HSE Books 1996 (single copy free or priced packs of 15 ISBN 0 7176 1246 5)
- Preventing asthma at work. How to control respiratory sensitisers L55 HSE Books 1994 ISBN 0 7176 0661 9
- Posters on protective gloves and skin care - see [www.hse.gov.uk/skin/information.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/skin/information.htm)
- Health surveillance for dermatitis - see [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/g403.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/g403.pdf)



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### Useful links

- HSE priced and free publications are available from HSE Books  
Tel: 01787 881165 Website: [www.hsebooks.co.uk](http://www.hsebooks.co.uk).
- For information about health and safety ring HSE's Infoline Tel: 0845 345 0055 Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: [hse.infoline@natbrit.com](mailto:hse.infoline@natbrit.com).
- Contact the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) on 01332 298101 or at [www.bohs.org](http://www.bohs.org) for lists of qualified hygienists who can help you.
- Look in the Yellow Pages under 'Health and safety consultants' and 'Health authorities and services' for 'occupational health'.
- Also see [www.nhsplus.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsplus.nhs.uk).

### Employee checklist

- If you find any problems, tell your supervisor. Don't just carry on working.
- Dry your hands thoroughly after washing. Avoid long periods of work with your hands wet.
- Use skin creams provided as often as possible.
- Never clean your hands with concentrated cleaning products or solvents.
- Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
- Cooperate with health surveillance.
- Check your skin regularly for dryness or soreness - tell your supervisor if these symptoms appear.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.