



MICROBLADING SERVICES *in Personal Service Establishments*

WHAT IS MICROBLADING?

Microblading – sometimes called eyebrow feathering, eyebrow embroidery, eyebrow micro-pigmentation, micro-stroking and 3D brows – is a manual, semi-permanent, cosmetic tattoo procedure. The blade of the instrument is made up of a row of fine needles. These needles are dipped into colour pigment (ink) and placed into the skin with a slicing motion. This technique creates the impression of a fuller, natural eyebrow. Note: This document does not address Microblading performed with a motorized tool.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Like other forms of tattooing, microblading is an invasive procedure that involves breaking the skin and applying ink. If the microblading equipment is not sterile, there is risk of transmitting infectious diseases such as HIV, hepatitis B and C, and skin infections. Allergic reactions to inks and scarring from repeated tattooing are also risks of microblading.

WHAT TRAINING IS REQUIRED?

There is no specific, legally-required training for people offering microblading services. However, since microblading is an invasive procedure, owners and operators of salons offering microblading should have training in infection prevention and control. Training should be provided in an appropriate setting, such as a cosmetology school, academy or spa.

HOW DO I FIND A SALON USING SAFE MICROBLADING PRACTICES?

If you are thinking about getting microblading, you are strongly advised to visit a salon or spa inspected by your local health authority. Before booking an appointment at the salon, look for or ask about the following:

- **A copy of the salon's last health inspection report.** A salon with a low hazard rating is following accepted standard practices with respect to general sanitation, disinfection and infection control procedures.
- **The cleanliness of the entire shop, including the bathroom.** The shop should be clean, orderly and free of clutter.
- **The practitioner's credentials.** Ask to see the practitioner's credentials. The practitioner should have received training from a cosmetology school, academy or spa.

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- **Fresh gloves and regular hand washing.** Does the service provider put on a fresh pair of medical grade, non-latex gloves before each service? Do they wash their hands before putting on gloves? The service provider should wash their hands and change their gloves if they answer the telephone or do anything else during the microblading service. Proper hand washing along with the appropriate use of gloves helps to protect the operator and client from infection.
- **Location of the service.** Is the service offered in an enclosed, dedicated space away from the public and other activities? For instance, if microblading services are located in an open area of a hair salon, the microblading wound, equipment or work surfaces are likely to become contaminated with hair cuttings, making it an unsuitable location for microblading.
- **Microblading instruments.** Are instruments reused? Most microblading tools, such as needles, are single-use and should be discarded after use. However, a few items may be reused, such as brow pencils, dividers, eyebrow scissors and tweezers. These items should be disinfected between clients to protect against infections.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE CONCERNS?

If you have questions or concerns about the health and safety practices of the salon where you are considering getting your microblading, or if you experience health problems as a result of microblading, contact your local health authority: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/partners/health-authorities/regional-health-authorities