

Different tools and equipment

Learning outcomes

- Maintain effective and safe methods of working when styling and finishing hair.
- Blow dry hair into shape.
- Finger dry hair into shape.
- Finish hair.

Introduction

The style and finish of the hair usually completes the overall service. If the hair has been cut, coloured or permed before styling, the styling and finishing procedure presents the fabulous end result. It is essential that the overall finish is satisfactory to your client and that they have been advised on how to maintain their style between salon visits.

This guide describes different products and equipment available for styling and finishing hair and when to use them. It also covers the importance of following manufacturers' instructions.

Tools required



Hairdryer



Long flat brush



Wide toothed comb



Straighteners



Tongs



Nozzle



Curling wand



Rounded brush



Dressing out comb



Diffuser

Different tools and equipment

During a styling and finishing service you will be working with electrical equipment on wet hair and using substances that could be hazardous to your health if inhaled, ingested or absorbed.

Always take care when using electrical items or products and follow the instructions of the manufacturer, the supplier and your salon.

Safe use of electrical equipment - the dos and don'ts

Do:

- Check the plugs and leads to make sure they are not loose or damaged before they are used.
- Replace equipment in the correct place after use.
- Unravel and straighten the leads properly before use.
- Switch off electrical items when they are not in use.
- Check heated styling equipment, such as straighteners and tongs, before using them on the client's hair.

Don't:

- Use electrical equipment with wet hands.
- Use any piece of equipment for any purpose other than that for which it was intended.
- Ravel up leads tightly around the equipment: it could work the connection loose.

Tip:

Ineffectively-maintained tools and equipment can lead to poor health and safety, poor hygiene, risk of cross-infection and infestation, and a negative salon image.

Preventing cross-infection and infestation

Safe and hygienic working practices - you must always protect your client during the styling service with a fresh, clean gown and towel. You should wear gloves when applying styling and finishing products to prevent dermatitis and maintain healthy hands, and an apron to protect your clothes.

Clean and tidy work area - you must keep your work area clean and tidy at all times. Make sure that your trolley and workstation are prepared for the required styling service and that you are ready for the client to arrive. Sterilise your styling tools and equipment to ensure they are hygienic and ready for use. Clean your workstation and surfaces with detergent and water. Disinfect your equipment with suitable disinfectants or a UV light and sterilise tools in the autoclave.

Tools and equipment

Dressing out comb - used for backcombing, teasing and dressing out the finished result.

Wide toothed comb - used to detangle hair before styling.

Denman classic styling brush - used to create a smooth, straight finish, such as a bob style.

Vented brushes - used for general brushing and blow drying straight, short and mid-length hair. Will create a textured, straight finish.

Round brushes - available in three sizes (small, medium and large), each one a different diameter. Used when blow drying to create volume, lift, wave and curl on shorter or longer length hair.

Flat brushes - used for general brushing, detangling and pre-dressing hair.

Hairdryers - used to dry the hair during blow drying. Your hairdryer should have adjustable speeds and temperatures. It should be light and easy to use and the controls should be easy to reach.

Diffusers - an attachment for a hairdryer which aids finger drying and scrunch drying, helps to encourage curls and lift in curly or wavy hair and optimises the natural movement within the hair.

Nozzle - another attachment for the hairdryer, it directs the airflow and heat from the hairdryer.

Straighteners - used to smooth and straighten dried hair.

Tongs - electric heated styling tongs used on dry hair. They are most often used on short, fine hair or on long hair to make a ringlet effect. They can be used to create movement or curl.

Conical wands - used to create soft curls on long, dry hair. Use the provided protective glove.





Maintenance of tools and equipment

Brushes and combs - remove all loose hairs from the brush/comb, wash them in warm soapy water and sanitise them using either a UV light cabinet or a disinfectant solution, such as Barbicide™.

Hairdryers - regularly clean the air intake grille at the back of the hairdryer to remove dust and fluff. This prevents them from overheating. Remember to read and adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance.

Diffusers - diffusers are cleaned by spraying with an antibacterial spray, then wiping with paper towels. Remember to always read and adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance.

Nozzle - read and adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance.

Straighteners - avoid winding flexes of electrical equipment too tightly when storing and remember to read and adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance.

Tongs - always sit tongs and hot brushes on the stand so as not to scorch work surfaces. Remember to read and adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance.

Conical wands - never store tongs, hot brushes or other electrical equipment until they have cooled down and always read and adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance.

Tip:

By law, all electrical equipment should be checked by a qualified electrician every six months.