



# Skin Penetration

## Use of Cut Throat Razors in the Hairdressing Industry

### Cut Throat Razors

Cut-throat razors with a non-changeable blade are not permitted for use in any commercial hairdressing establishment in Western Australia due to the risk of spreading blood borne viruses such as hepatitis B and HIV/AIDS.

Microorganisms and minute quantities of blood and bodily fluids which are not visible to the naked eye may be present on the razor after use. Simply washing and disinfecting the blade will not destroy these organisms and will place other clients at risk of infection if the blade is reused.

Cut throat razors with disposable **single use** blades are permitted. A new blade must be used on each client, and the detachable blade must be disposed of into a sharps container (as per Australian Standards) after each use. The blade handle must be cleaned with warm water and detergent to remove any contaminants prior to a new single use blade being attached.

### Disposable Razors

Disposable razors must be **single use** and disposed of into a sharps container after each use.

Where razors blades have a detachable blade, the blade must be disposed of into a sharps container (as per Australian Standards) after each use. The blade handle must be cleaned with warm water and detergent to remove any contaminants prior to a new single use blade being attached.

### Further Information

For further information on skin penetration or hairdressing, contact your local government Environmental Health Officer or the Environmental Health Directorate on (08) 9388 4999.

A copy of the **Code of Practice for Skin Penetration Procedures** can be obtained from the Environmental Health website at; <http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/>

