

## **Hygiene in cosmetic facilities: Information for operators**

On the following pages, the Merzig-Wadern public health department provides an overview of what you should bear in mind as the operator of a piercing and tattoo studio and/or operator of cosmetic and pedicure facilities.

The health authority's information sheets are mainly recommendations.

As an operator, you are obliged to implement the legal requirements resulting from regulations and laws in your studio and to keep yourself regularly informed about the latest recommendations and changes to the law.

You are responsible for the hygienic framework and the hygienic actions of your employees.

If you have any questions about hygiene, the team at the public health department will be happy to advise you free of charge.

However, if an inspection is necessary or requested by you, a fee will be charged in accordance with the Saarland's general scale of fees.

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## 1. Ordinances, rules and recommendations (German)

- Information on the Infection Protection Act  
<https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/ifsg/>
- Saarland Hygiene Ordinance  
<https://recht.saarland.de/bssl/document/jlr-SeuchVSL2014rahmen>
- Hygiene requirements for surface cleaning and disinfection  
[https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Krankenhaushygiene/Kommission/Downloads/Flaeche\\_Rili.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Krankenhaushygiene/Kommission/Downloads/Flaeche_Rili.html)
- Hand hygiene  
[https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Krankenhaushygiene/Kommission/Downloads/Haendehyg\\_Rili.pdf?\\_blob=publicationFile](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Krankenhaushygiene/Kommission/Downloads/Haendehyg_Rili.pdf?_blob=publicationFile)
- Reprocessing of medical devices  
[https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Krankenhaushygiene/Aufb\\_MedProd/Aufb\\_MedProd\\_node.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/Infekt/Krankenhaushygiene/Aufb_MedProd/Aufb_MedProd_node.html)
- List of Disinfectants  
<https://vah-online.de/de/vah-liste>
- Framework hygiene plan  
<https://www.uminfo.de/rahmenhygieneplaene/lak-sonstige-einrichtungen/rhp-lak-piercing-taetowierungseinrichtungen.pdf>
- Infection protection for beauty and wellness facilities  
[https://www.bgw-online.de/resource/blob/8676/80e35f4c3aab3c4f849c57dd056ee9e1/SichereSeiten\\_Beauty-Wellness\\_Infektionsschutz\\_01-2022\\_bf.pdf](https://www.bgw-online.de/resource/blob/8676/80e35f4c3aab3c4f849c57dd056ee9e1/SichereSeiten_Beauty-Wellness_Infektionsschutz_01-2022_bf.pdf)
- Sample hygiene plan for cosmetics and foot care  
<https://frankfurt.de/-/media/frankfurtde/service-und-rathaus/verwaltung/aemter-und-institutionen/gesundheitsamt/pdf/musterhygieneplan-kosmetik-fusspflege-nov-2015.ashx>
- For tattoo studios, permanent make-up and similar facilities  
*DIN EN 17169 „Tätowieren – Sichere und hygienische Praxis“*

## **2. FAQ - The hygiene plan in the studio**

### **Which law states that I have to draw up a hygiene plan?**

Section 2 of the Saarland Ordinance on the Prevention of Communicable Diseases (*Verordnung zur Verhütung übertragbarer Krankheiten*; short: *Hygieneverordnung*) states that you are legally obliged to draw up a hygiene plan for your studio.

### **Do I also need a hygiene plan if I work alone in the studio?**

Yes: The hygiene plan is the hygienic “figurehead” of your studio. In the event of customer complaints, you can use the hygiene plan to refute accusations regarding the cleanliness of your studio, provided you implement everything in your daily routine as described in it.

### **Do I have to draw up my hygiene plan in writing?**

The law does not contain any requirements for the preparation of plans, but leaves this largely to the discretion of the facilities. However, a written hygiene plan is recommended. You can find a sample hygiene plan in the list above.

### **What is the difference between cleaning and disinfection plans and the hygiene plan?**

The cleaning and disinfection plan is part of the hygiene plan.

### **What exactly does the hygiene plan contain?**

It contains all activities and actions in your studio that are relevant in terms of hygiene. In the hygiene plan, you as operator define binding work instructions for hygiene in your studio.

### **3. FAQ - After completion of the hygiene plan**

#### **What do I do with my completed hygiene plan?**

The hygiene plan should be kept in the studio in such a way that every employee has access to it at all times and can read the binding work instructions in it if necessary. This can be in digital or printed form. Parts of the hygiene plan, such as disinfection tables or posters on how to disinfect hands, can also be displayed in the studio.

#### **When do I have to take care of the hygiene plan?**

The hygiene plan must be updated at least once a year and adapted if necessary. If something changes before then, you must adapt the hygiene plan immediately.

#### **How and when do I show the hygiene plan to my staff?**

As soon as the plan is ready, you must train your staff in it. This means that you can give them the hygiene plan to read or discuss it as a team. Important: Staff must sign to confirm that they have read and understood the hygiene plan. You must document this signature and be able to show it during inspections. This process must be repeated once a year; however, it must be repeated immediately in the event of changes to the hygiene plan and for new employees before they start work.

#### **Who checks the hygiene plan?**

As the operator, you must check the hygiene plan at least once a year. If your studio is inspected by the public health department, you must be able to present the hygiene plan with all employee signatures. The hygiene plan can also be checked in detail in the event of a legal dispute with customers. You must be able to present the hygiene plan to both the authorities and employees at any time.

#### **4. Important hygiene rules for employees and owners**

- The owner draws up a hygiene plan for the studio. This is reviewed annually. All employees are trained once a year and confirm this with their signature. New employees are trained before starting work.
- Clean all floors, work surfaces, washbasins and toilets daily.
- Do not wear bracelets, watches, rings or anything else when working with customers. Do not wear artificial nails or nail polish.
- We recommend wearing work clothing (scrubs/gown, protective goggles, face mask, etc.)
- The areas of the customer's skin to be treated, such as hands and feet, should be cleaned with soap and water before treatment; the skin should be disinfected with skin disinfectant.
- Hand disinfection is recommended before and after each treatment.
- Disinfect and clean the used reusable instruments immediately after each treatment and dispose of used disposable instruments - see information sheet on reprocessing medical devices.
- Disinfect and clean the work surface and reach paths (handles, etc.) after each treatment - see surface disinfection.
- Use disposable products wherever possible.
- Clean and disinfect the foot tub after each client.
- Use new pads for each customer; disposable products (paper towels, etc.) are recommended.
- Do not remove foot scrubs and massage creams with your hands: Use a spatula, spoon or similar.
- According to the Saarland Hygiene Ordinance, hand disinfectants may not be decanted or refilled.

## **5. Surface disinfection**

### **Basic information**

- Important: Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- It is recommended to use ready-made products, for example so-called "wipes". These are pre-soaked, ready-to-use wipes for disinfection. In addition to being easy to use in everyday life, the advantages are that it is no longer necessary to dose and mix solutions or to spray. Due to the health risks of inhaling aerosols, spray disinfection is not recommended.
- Use a fresh cloth each time you immerse the device in the solution. We generally recommend disposable wipes that can be disposed of after a single use. This eliminates the need to reprocess wipes.
- Wear suitable gloves when wiping and disinfecting.
- All surfaces and reach paths must be disinfected after each customer.

### **If you wish to prepare the disinfectant yourself, the following applies:**

- Wear suitable gloves, protective gowns and safety goggles.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for dosage.

## **6. Instrument reprocessing**

- The use of ready-to-use disinfectant solutions is recommended.
- All instruments used must be cleaned and disinfected after each customer.
- The concentration and exposure time specified by the manufacturer must be observed.
- The use of an ultrasonic device is recommended for cleaning rotating instruments. A ready-made cleaning and disinfection product specifically for use with ultrasound is also permitted: With this, cleaning and disinfection take place in a single operation.
- Disposable products cannot be cleaned and disinfected.
- The disinfectant must be VAH-listed (association for applied hygiene) and have a "limited virucidal" or "virucidal" spectrum of activity.
- All instruments must be fully immersed in the solution; forceps must be wide open.
- Cleaned instruments must be stored away from dust.
- Visual inspection: Defective, rusty instruments must be disposed of.

### **Caution:**

- Never mix disinfectants with cleaning agents.
- Replace the disinfectant solution according to the manufacturer's instructions and immediately when visibly soiled.
- Label the containers with the contents and preparation date.
- Visible soiling must first be removed with a disinfectant-soaked cloth; then carry out a wipe disinfection.
- Wash the wiping cloths after use at a temperature of at least 60°C and dry them in the tumble dryer. However, the use of disposable cloths is recommended.
- Store the clean wiping cloths in a cupboard or drawer to protect them from dust.
- Pay attention to the VAH list of disinfectants and their spectrum of activity.