

Hand and Foot Tubs or Basins

Manicure, pedicure and other aesthetic services may involve the immersion of hands or feet in a container such as a basin, tub or bowl, which may or may not be equipped with a recirculation system. Inadequate or no cleaning and disinfection of reusable containers used for hand and/or foot soaks have led to the spread of bacteria and other pathogens in personal service settings. The following provides direction for the cleaning and disinfection of various types of tubs and basins.

Soak tubs or basins with recirculation

Soak tubs or basins with recirculation (e.g., footbaths, foot thrones, pedicure chairs or tubs that are connected to plumbing and fitted with water jets) are to be drained and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected according to the manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU) after each client. This includes all surfaces, filters, screens and the recirculation system.

If the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfecting the recirculation system are not available, the following are to be done after each client:

1. Drain the tub and thoroughly clean all surfaces with water, detergent and a scrubbing brush.
2. Remove, dismantle, clean and disinfect any filters or screens that are not in the piping (e.g., magnet screens) with an intermediate-level disinfectant. Replace these after cleaning and disinfection.
3. Fill the tub with detergent and warm water to above the fill line and turn on the recirculation system. Let it run for 5 minutes. Drain the tub and rinse with clean water to remove any residual detergent.
4. Use an intermediate-level disinfectant according to the MIFU. If bleach is used, a 1:50 dilution (1 part chlorine bleach, 49 parts water) is sufficient.
5. Fill the tub or basin with disinfectant solution to above the level of the jets. Ensure that the disinfectant is diluted according to the MIFU (if applicable).
6. Turn on the recirculation system and allow it to run for the contact time specified in the MIFU. If a bleach and water solution is used for disinfection, ensure a 10 minute contact time.
7. After the system has run for the specified contact time, drain the disinfectant solution.
8. If rinsing following disinfection is recommended by the MIFU, fill the tub or basin with warm water to above the level of the jets and run the system for a few minutes.
9. Drain and dry the tub or basin before use by the next client.

Additionally, at the end of each day:

10. Clean, disinfect, and dry all cleaning and disinfection supplies (e.g., brushes, cloths, rags) and store these away from sterile supplies (if applicable).
11. Remove, dismantle, clean and disinfect any filters or screens in the piping (i.e., those that require a screwdriver to remove) using an intermediate-level disinfectant.

Soak tubs or basins without recirculation

Soak tubs or basins without recirculation are those that are manually filled and drained and do not have the ability to recirculate water. Reusable tubs or basins are to be comprised of materials that are non-porous and able to be cleaned and disinfected. Those made of stainless steel may be preferred over plastic. For basins or tubs that are not easily cleaned and disinfected, it may be possible to use a disposable single-use liner during the soak procedure or service.

If a single-use disposable liner is not used, after each client:

- Empty the tub/basin and thoroughly clean all surfaces with water and detergent.
- Rinse the tub/basin with clean water to remove any leftover detergent solution.
- Disinfect the tub/basin using a level of disinfection as appropriate for the intended use:
 - Tubs or basins used for hand soaks (e.g., manicures bowls) require low-level disinfection, at a minimum.
 - Tubs or basins used for foot soaks (e.g., footbaths, pedicure bowls) require intermediate-level disinfection, at a minimum
- Drain and dry the tub/basin before reuse or storage.

If a single-use disposable liner is used, after each client:

- Dispose of the liner.
- Inspect the tub/basin for any signs of contamination (e.g., signs of a tear or opening in the liner).
- If there are no signs of contamination, place a new liner in the tub/basin, and clean and disinfect the tub/basin with a low-level disinfectant at the end of the day.
- If there are signs that the tub/basin was contaminated (e.g., visible liquid in the basin after removing the liner) clean and disinfect the tub/basin before the next client use.
 - A low-level disinfectant is to be used if the tub/basin was used for hand soaks.
 - An intermediate-level disinfectant is to be used if the tub/basin was used for foot soaks.
- Dry the tub/basin following cleaning and disinfection and before reuse or storage.

Sources:

1. Health Protection and Promotion Act. Ontario Regulation 136/18 Personal Service Settings. Cited [2019 August 11] Available at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/180136>
2. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Guide to infection prevention and control in personal service settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. Cited [2019 August 11] Available at: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/guide-ipac-personal-service-settings.pdf?la=en>

This fact sheet is based on PSS best practices recommendations, current reprocessing standards and legislation. It is not an inclusive list of all requirements. Operators are responsible to ensure that all services are offered according to local requirements, best practices and, legislation