**BTC Top Ten:   
10 Hidden Dangers Lurking in the Salon**

How serious are you about salon safety?  Are you aware how dangerous an untidy salon really is?  By not practicing a routine cleaning regimen, you and your clients are exposed to bacteria, viruses and fungus.  Not only that, your family and friends are at risk the minute you walk out the door!  **Leslie Roste**, RN, salon sanitation guru for **King Research**, offers a close look at some important salon disinfection lessons and the top 10 dangers lurking in your salon!

**1. Air Up There –** Spreading germs can start with a simple cough and sneeze.  Viruses become airborne and latch themselves onto surfaces, thus creating a domino effect of disease disaster.  There are several ways to safeguard your salon, especially during cold and flu season.  Encourage the staff to stay healthy and be aware of how clients are feeling.  Use Barbicide products daily to prevent these germs from setting up shop. Viruses are very difficult, if not impossible, to kill once someone is infected, so prevention by disinfection is key!

**2. Dust in the Wind –** Dust bunnies are not only unappealing, they prevent disinfection solutions from doing a thorough job.  They also provide a home for bacteria! Develop a cleaning regimen for the salon and enforce it.  And don’t forget that dust bunnies like to hide on shelves, light fixtures and ledges, in addition to salon corners!

**3. Tooling Around –** On the topic of tools, determine how much sharing is going on in the salon. Are stylists swapping brushes, combs, clips and shears?  While this is unpreventable, make sure each tool is properly immersed for the amount of time required to kill bacteria, viruses and fungus.  Passing the comb could very well mean passing the lice.

**4. Urban Decay –** Remove decaying matter immediately from the salon for proper salon disinfection and sanitation.  Keeping hair out of your food has always been important, but in the salon…keep your food out of the hair!  That leftover bagel or apple core provides all the nutrition hungry bacteria need to thrive and reproduce by the millions!

**5. Skin So Soft –**Did you know that bacteria thrive in warm, moist, dark places, feeding off dead tissue?  A single bacterial cell can produce 16,000,000 copies of itself in only 12 hours! It is imperative to immediately remove all skin matter and particles from the salon, especially in the mani/pedi and spa areas.

**6. Fashion Victim –** It is not uncommon for your client to come to the salon straight from work.  Does Julie work at a nursing home?  Is Todd at the construction site all day?  How long has Sarah been working at that daycare?  Consider what your clients have been exposed to and what they’re bringing into the salon.  Offer a smock or a salon robe before they contaminate the rest of the salon.  They probably can’t wait to slip into something more comfortable!

**7. Nail on the Head –** Manicuring tables are extremely susceptible to bacteria, viruses and fungus.  Develop a cleanliness routine for this area.  Start by wiping down the station before and after each client with Barbicide Wipes.  Even though the instruments have been sterilized, you should properly immerse them in Barbicide throughout the service until they are ready to be re-sterilized.  Remember blue in the bottle is better than blue fungus under the nail for your client and your business!

**8. Caps Lock –** Receptionist Kelly hasn’t been feeling too well.  Now you discover that she has a tonsil-throbbing case of strep along with that “little cold,” and her germ-infested digits have been all over the computer keyboard.  Keep Barbicide Hand Sanitizer next to the computer and continuously spray and disinfect the front desk.  This high traffic area is prone to bugs of all sorts—from front desk personnel and clients alike!

**9. Dirty Girl –** You’re working with your hands all day and come in contact with more germs than you can imagine.  Giving clients a scalp massage is a nice add-on, but collecting scalp and skin residue under your fingernails is not part of the bargain.  It’s easy to transfer bacteria, viruses and fungus to your clients and to yourself, so make sure to get underneath each nail when you’re washing your hands.  If you’re pressed for time you can always use that Barbicide Hand Sanitizer!

**10. Chair Scare –** It may look comfy and it’s a necessity in the salon, but the styling chair is a magnet for bacteria, viruses and germs.  You can’t submerge an entire styling chair into a vat of Barbicide between clients.  But you can utilize your Barbicide Wipes by wiping down the armrests and footstool, and spray it down thoroughly using the Barbicide Spray Bottle.

**Barbicide  
Good, Clean Fun!**

Plop.  Your hazelnut biscotti slipped out of your hands and hit the floor.  Oh what the heck.  You’ll invoke the five-second rule—pick it up, shake it off and…yum!  Clink.  Your comb slid off of your station and landed in a pile of hair clippings.  Stop!  Don’t even think about it.  When it comes to cleanliness, sanitation and infection control in your salon, the five-second rule absolutely, positively does not apply.  In order to maintain strict control over germs and bacteria, you must adhere to a strict sanitation regimen.  So forget about dipping that comb in some hot water and wiping it off on your smock.  If you haven’t done so already—it’s time to come clean and break out the **Barbicide.**

Barbicide’s distinctive blue hue is truly a staple in the beauty industry.  It was concocted by **Maurice King**, a chemistry teacher who made the daring choice to put his occupation on hold to follow his entrepreneurial dreams. He went into business with his wife and brother and after experimenting with various compounds and solvents, Maurice found the recipe for success, and Barbicide was born.  For the past 60 years, salon pros have relied on the cleaning powers of the sparkly blue fluid.  So much so, that the iconic Barbicide jar is not only a salon pro’s best friend, it achieved global recognition when it was placed in the **National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution.**

**King Research** has manufactured the super solvent since 1947.  Current president **Alan R. Murphy** is a passionate advocate for proper salon sanitation and disinfection.  He teaches the three “E’s” and believes that strict adherence will keep both clients and stylists safe and healthy:

**#1 "E" - Educate**  
Educate yourself about sanitation and disinfection, including the products available through King Research.  There’s more to it than the concentrated blue Barbicide “cocktail” you’ve been serving to your combs, shears and tools. Today, the company offers more than a dozen products--each one formulated and targeted to ensure and promote cleanliness within the salon.  Are your clippers skuzzy?  Let **Clippercide** remove the gunk, and when it does, it also leaves behind a whisper-hint of lubricant on the blades to help reduce friction.  Do your nylon hairbrushes look like porcupines wearing fur coats?  Add a bottle of **Brush Delite** to five quarts of water, and before you know it, your brushes will look brand new.  Take note that Brush Delite is not intended to be used on boar bristle brushes and should be used as directed.

Speaking of using the products as directed, not only is it important to familiarize yourself with each one, it is imperative that you spend some time educating yourself on how to properly use them to their full disinfection, sanitation and cleaning potential. Study the labels and understand the manufacturer’s recommendations.  We know the excitement of using the products will cause you to rush things, but take your time and understand how to properly use each one.  There’s no need to rush!

Your client is susceptible the minute they step foot in the door and we’re pretty sure your client will never request the “Raging Hepatitis Athlete’s Foot MRSA Infested Herpes Soy Pedi.”  Yet the risk of transferring viral infections and blood borne pathogens from client to client, and even to you, can happen faster than you can say pseudomonas!  Re-educating yourself on the health risks you and your clients face and how to properly prevent the transmission of these harmful and fatal diseases, will ensure a high level of service and care for you and your client.  How can you make a difference in the salon?  Make sure you soak each tool that can be successfully submerged in Barbicide for the required exposure time of 10 minutes.  Since it’s going to be close to impossible to submerge your styling chair in a vat of Barbicide, King Research has just introduced these splendid [Barbicide Wipes](http://behindthechair.com/displayproduct.aspx?ID=884) to make the cleaning process easier.

**#2 "E" - Embrace**  
Embrace your King Research knowledge throughout the salon on a daily basis when it comes to staff routines.  Also, don’t let your co-workers get away with any nonsense.  If you see someone who isn’t following the disinfection and sanitation protocol, call ‘em out.  Remember, if it’s not safe for you then it’s not safe for your client.  As an owner, don’t hesitate to use scare tactics to get your team to embrace the idea of cleanliness throughout the salon/spa.  Let them know the **Center for Disease Control (CDC)** has said that by the time 2010 rolls around more people will die from MRSA than AIDS.  For more information on infectious diseases like MRSA, Staph and HIV, we suggest you visit the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

**#3 "E" - Energize**  
Now it’s time to energize your clients and show them you’re taking safety and cleanliness seriously.  Bring disinfection out of the back room and proudly display your commitment with an array of “safety signage.”  New **Barbicide Mirror Talkers** are cheeky and fun and guaranteed to be a conversation starter with clients.  And don’t take clients’ knowledge for granted.  Openly discuss your disinfection practices by explaining exactly what you’re doing.  Talk about what’s going on when you’re retrieving a comb or accessory that’s been soaking in Barbicide.  Ask if they’re familiar with Barbicide and its history.  Drop the Smithsonian factoid and observe the look of amazement as it sweeps across their faces.  Getting in the habit of wiping down your entire station with a Barbicide Wipe before your client takes a seat will demonstrate your level of sanitation sincerity.  (Clients will also appreciate the “safety freshness” scent of Barbicide, rather than the harsh, medicinal odors of most disinfectants and sanitizers.)

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