SHOWHOW · CHECKLIST

Nail Salon Tool Cleaning Checklist

Clients judge a nail salon by how clean the tools look, and they're right to. This checklist is for nail technicians and salon owners who want every tech to clean tools and stations the same way after every client. It covers single-use items, washing, disinfecting and storage. Use the disinfectant your salon has chosen and follow its label and your local rules; this checklist doesn't replace them.

What you'll need

- Disinfectant made for salon tools
- Soap, water and a scrub brush
- Gloves
- Clean, closed storage container
- Trash can for single-use items

Steps

- [ ] **Put on gloves before you handle used tools.**
  Change gloves between clients.

- [ ] **Throw away every single-use item from the last client.**
  Files, buffers, orangewood sticks, toe separators and liners. Never reuse them on another client.

  Watch out: Single-use means one client. Reusing a file is how infections spread.

- [ ] **Scrub metal tools with soap and water.**
  Use a brush on hinges and edges, then rinse. Disinfectant doesn't work through dirt.

- [ ] **Dry the tools with a clean towel.**
  Water left on the tools dilutes the disinfectant.

- [ ] **Submerge the tools fully in disinfectant for the time on the label.**
  Open any hinged tools so every surface is covered, and set a timer.

- [ ] **Take the tools out with clean gloves or tongs.**
  Rinse them if the label says to, then dry them.

- [ ] **Store clean tools in a closed, labeled container.**
  Never back in a drawer with used tools.

- [ ] **Change the disinfectant as often as the label says, or sooner if it's cloudy.**
  Write the date you mixed it on the container.

- [ ] **Clean and disinfect the table, armrest and lamp.**
  Wipe away dust and filings first, then disinfect.

- [ ] **Clean the pedicure tub after every client.**
  Drain, scrub and rinse it, then disinfect it the way the tub's manufacturer says.

  Watch out: Whirlpool tubs hide dirt in the jets and filters. Follow the manufacturer's cleaning steps every time.

- [ ] **Put out fresh towels for the next client.**
  Used towels go straight into a closed laundry bin.

- [ ] **Wash your hands before you greet the next client.**
  Ask the client to wash their hands too before a manicure.

How to adapt it

- Write the name of your disinfectant and its contact time into the soaking step.
- Keep a log of when the disinfectant was changed.
- Clean tools where clients can see it. It builds trust.
- Follow your local rules for nail salons, and ask your state or local licensing board if unsure.