

Going Beneath the Surface A tutorial on spa cleanliness

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The latest growth statistics from the International SPA Association states that the United States spa industry surpassed the \$15 billion mark in 2014. With 360,000 people working in nearly 21,000 spas, the quality of sanitation training, certification, and protocol is paramount. Having the knowledge and ability to make positive changes toward a cleaner spa environment for guests and staff is both a compelling and rewarding endeavor.

STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR SKIN CARE PROFESSIONALS

Proper standards and procedures for cleanliness should always be set in the spa. These standards and procedures include establishing protocols for the cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of all aesthetic tools, equipment, facial tables, and implements. However, setting standards is not enough. It is important that initial and ongoing training of all staff members occurs to ensure standards and protocols are followed consistently.

For example, here is a sample of the multi-step cleaning process of metal tools:

1. Wash all metal tools with warm, soapy water and spray them thoroughly with an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant. Use a cotton swab to remove any visible debris, if needed. Proceed to rinse and autoclave the tools.
2. Allow the tools to air dry and package and seal them for future clients.
3. Post the cleaning standards steps in all treatment rooms, preparation rooms, and dispensaries.

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OTHER TIPS

- Utilizing one-time-use implements on clients can assist in achieving a more sanitary objective.
- It is important to document cleaning dates and times for steamers used in treatment rooms. Post this information for the staff to sign when they complete their cleaning tasks.
- Let clients know about the extra steps the spa takes to achieve cleanliness by placing the information in marketing and public