

how DO you DISINFECT in DELAWARE?

Talk about getting back to basics! We learn in kindergarten to wash our hands and keep our things clean. Cleaning your implements is the ultimate “back to basics” step you can take, and it is reassuring to clients and coworkers alike. Each state in the union has its own regulations regarding specifically how metal (non-porous) implements are to be cleaned or disinfected. While the rules don’t vary substantially from state, there are nuances that you need to be aware of.

One thing that was revealed in developing this chart was the lack of specific information available from some states and the

confusing use of industry terms (for example, many state boards still use the words “sanitation” and “disinfection” interchangeably). The information in this chart was compiled by a combination of direct input from state boards and searching through the rules and regulations online for each of the boards. When a state did not provide specific regulations, we’ve left the area blank. If your state has no guidelines, we recommend that you follow the Salon Safety Guidelines for Nail Technicians that we have published in the NAILS Big Book (and which you can download from our website at www.nailsmag.com).

	Required Disinfection Process	Handling Disposable Items	Handling Electric File Accessories
ALABAMA	All states require metal implements to be “cleaned” before the disinfection process. This means removing all visible debris, then washing with soap and warm water, then following the specific disinfection process per your state’s guidelines.	Most states require that all supplies that come into direct contact with a client and cannot be disinfected, be disposed of in a waste receptacle immediately after use.	Any part that can not be immersed in water should be wiped or sprayed with an EPA-registered disinfectant after each use. All removable parts or parts that touch the nail plate must comply with implement disinfection regulations or disposable items requirements.
ALASKA	EPA-registered disinfectant must be tuberculocidal and effective against HIV and HEP C. Immerse 10 minutes or per manufacturer’s instructions. Store in dry, covered container after disinfection process.	Paper products can be used on one client only. Files, birch wood sticks, and other “non-disinfectable” implements must be disposed of after use on single client.	All removable parts or part that touch the nail plate must comply with implement cleaning regulations.
ARIZONA	Place instrument directly into an ultrasonic cleaner for a 10-minute cycle or as recommended by the manufacturer; sterilized in a sterilizer if a package seal on a sterilization pouch containing an instrument has been broken; that instrument may not be used until it is sterilized again. Store dried instruments after cleaning in a sterilization pouch that has either a sterilizer indicator or internal temperature indicator		
ARIZONA	Disinfectant must be EPA-registered, hospital-grade, bactericidal, virucidal, and fungicidal and mixed and used according to the manufacturer’s directions. Immerse for 10 minutes or per manufacturer’s instructions. Store in covered container that is disinfected and dry to store disinfected tools and implements.		Wipe or spray with an EPA-registered disinfectant after each use.
ARKANSAS	Totally immerse for 10 minutes in EPA-registered disinfectant or 70% isopropyl alcohol with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal, used according to manufacturer’s instructions. Store in dry sanitizer.	All supplies that come into direct contact with a client and cannot be disinfected (for example, cotton pads, emery boards used on the natural nails) shall be disposed of in a waste receptacle immediately after use.	First remove all foreign matter, then disinfect with an EPA-registered disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal, used according to manufacturer’s instructions.
CALIFORNIA	Totally immerse in an EPA-registered disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal activity, used according to manufacturer’s instructions. Store in a clean, covered container that is labeled.	All instruments and supplies, which come into direct contact with a patron and cannot be disinfected (for example, cotton pads, sponges, emery boards, and neck strips) shall be disposed of in a waste receptacle immediately after use.	First remove all foreign matter, then disinfect with an EPA-registered disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal, used according to manufacturer’s instructions.
COLORADO	Use EPA-registered bactericidal, virucidal, or fungicidal disinfectants according to manufacturer’s instructions or bleach solution or 70%-90% isopropyl alcohol or 70%-90% ethyl alcohol. Immerse for 1-3 minutes. Bleach is an effective disinfectant for all purposes in a salon if mixed daily at the minimum standard of 3/4 cup of 5.25% bleach per gallon of water and immersed for 1-2 minutes. Store in a clean, dry container that is separate from soiled implements and materials.	Single-use equipment, implements, or porous material shall be discarded after use on a single client. Buffer blocks and porous nail files (rough, surfaced, or absorbent materials) shall be cleaned by manually brushing or other adequate methods to remove all visible debris after each use, and then sprayed with isopropyl or ethyl alcohol. If a buffer block or porous nail file is exposed to broken skin (skin that is not intact) or unhealthy skin or nails, it must be discarded immediately after use in a trash container.	Wipe clean and spray with an EPA-registered bactericidal, fungicidal, or virucidal disinfectant, isopropyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol, or bleach solution prior to use on each client. After each use, clean diamond, carbide, natural, and metal bits by either using a brush, an ultrasonic cleaner, or immersing the bit in acetone for 5-10 minutes. Then follow regular disinfection procedures.

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CT	State does not publish specific guidelines.		
DELAWARE	Place instruments in jar sanitizer containing cotton saturated with 70% alcohol or bleach during the manicure process so as to keep the instruments in a sanitary condition during the entire manicure procedure. Use commercially marketed U.S. EPA-approved and registered disinfection agents sold for the purpose of disinfecting tools, provided all manufacturer's instructions are carefully followed. OR, use a solution of one part household bleach to 10 parts water for 10 minutes. OR, use 70% alcohol for 20-30 minutes.	All supplies or instruments, which come in direct contact with a patron and cannot be disinfected (for example, cotton pads, emery boards used on the natural nail, and neck strips), must be disposed of in a covered waste receptacle immediately after their use.	
DC	Items shall be placed in a jar sanitizer containing cotton saturated with 70% alcohol or bleach during the manicure process to keep all instruments in a sanitary condition during the process. Store in a closed cabinet or covered container.	Discard single-use items after single use.	
FLORIDA	Completely immerse instrument in a chemical solution that is hospital-level or EPA-approved disinfectant. Store in a clean, closed cabinet or container.		Clean articles with soap and water, immerse metal instruments in hospital-level, EPA-approved disinfectant.
GEORGIA	All tools and implements, must be disinfected by complete immersion in any EPA-registered, hospital-grade, bactericidal, virucidal, and fungicidal disinfectant that is prepared and used according to the manufacturer's directions.		
HAWAII	All such instruments shall be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized by a method approved by the director of the department of health. After sanitization, store in a manner to prevent contamination, or be sanitized again immediately before reuse.		
IDAHO	All instruments shall be sanitized after cleaning and prior to use on each patron, with a sanitizing agent registered by the EPA as hospital-grade or better. Every precaution shall be taken to prevent the transfer of disease-causing pathogens from person to person. Store in clean, closed containers.		
ILLINOIS	All non-disposable manicure implements shall be cleaned with a hospital-grade disinfectant.	Wood sticks and files (except sanitizable files and buffing blocks) shall be discarded after each use.	
INDIANA	Sterilization shall be accomplished by means of wet sterilizer, according to manufacturer's specifications. Store tools until their next use in a closed, clean container with only other disinfected implements.		
IOWA	Disinfect tools with an EPA-registered disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal activity and use according to manufacturer's instructions. Store all disinfected instruments in a clean, covered place.	Emery boards, cosmetic sponges, applicators, and orangewood sticks must be discarded after use or given to the client. All instruments and supplies that come into direct contact with a patron and cannot be disinfected (such as cotton pads, sponges, emery boards, and neck strips) shall be disposed of in a closed waste receptacle immediately after use. A nail buffer that can be sanitized may be used more than once, but must be sanitized before use on the next client. If a nail buffer cannot be sanitized, the nail buffer shall not be used for more than one client. The presence of such buffers in the workplace shall be prima facie evidence of use.	

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KANSAS	Totally immerse in an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal activity when used according to manufacturer's instructions.	All supplies and instruments that come in direct contact with a patron and cannot be disinfected, including, but not limited to, cotton pads, emery boards used on natural nail, and neck strips, shall be disposed of in a covered waste receptacle immediately after use.	Electrical instruments shall be disinfected prior to each use by first removing all foreign matter, then disinfecting with an EPA-registered disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal activity and used according to manufacturer's instructions. Store all disinfected electrical instruments in a clean, covered place.
KENTUCKY	Carbolic acid and phenol are useful disinfectants in five percent solutions (seven ounces to one gallon of water) with exposure for one-half hour. Sodium Hypochlorite solutions made up from commercial preparations and containing 200 ppm (parts per million) of chlorine are effective for the surface disinfection of equipment that has been thoroughly cleaned. Contact with the solution should not be for less than two minutes. A 10% solution for Formalin is satisfactory for disinfection of all equipment. A 70% solution of alcohol is an effective disinfectant for cleaning equipment. Instruments that are to be disinfected with boiling water should be boiled for at least 15 minutes. Steam sterilization at 15 pounds pressure at 248 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes is an effective means of sterilization. Place in a dry sterilizer until used again.		
LOUISIANA	Either sterilize, sanitize, or dispose tools after each use. Immerse in a solution of one part water to 10 parts of sodium hypochlorite (bleach), EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant, or some equally efficient disinfectant used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Store new and clean tools and implements separately from all others.	An emery board or disposable file shall be discarded after its use on a client.	Sanding bands used on electric file mandrels are for single-use purposes and shall be disposed of after each use. Metal bits for electric files shall be properly disinfected after each client with an approved disinfectant as specified in state regulations.
MAINE	Immerse for at least 10 minutes in 70% isopropyl alcohol, in boiling water at least 10 minutes, or by any other sanitizing agent, which meets the approval of the board. Store all non-electrical tools and instruments in cabinets or adequate closed storage area that contains a suitable sanitizing agent approved by the board.		
MARYLAND	Use an EPA-registered disinfectant that is effective against HIV and hepatitis viruses; or a hospital-grade tuberculocidal disinfectant. Store clean tools in an airtight container or a wet sanitizer containing a disinfectant as specified.		
MASSACHUSETTS	One of the following methods must be used to sanitize instruments and equipment: 1) Boiling water at 212°F for 20 minutes; 2) Steaming dry heat; 3) 70% grain or denatured alcohol for at least 10 minutes; 4) Ultraviolet rays in an electrical sanitizer; or 5) Immersion in 10% formalin for at least 10 minutes. You may also use chemical agents (hospital-grade antiseptics and disinfectants, or vapors, formalin and steri-dry). Also allowed is bleach. Mix one part bleach to 10 parts water. Rinse the implements in water first, then immerse the implement in the bleach solution, shake the implement in the bleach solution, repeat the rinse/immersion/shake process described, rinse the implement in water a final time and wipe the implement dry with a clean cloth or paper towel. Place implement in a closed cabinet or disinfectant solution. This procedure applies to plastic, metal, steel, or rubber implements. This is the recommended infection control procedure of the Centers for Disease Control regarding all bloodborne pathogens, which includes HIV. There must be at least one airtight container for storage of sanitized instruments.		
MICHIGAN	Methods allowed include exposure to UV light at a distance of not more than 8 inches for not less than 2 minutes from a germicidal lamp, which is satisfactory to the department of public health and which has a strength of not less than 15 watts. Or, place washed equipment in a container holding a chemical sanitizing agent. Acceptable agents are those registered for use in interstate commerce by the USDA. Sharp edged tools must be wiped with a 70% alcohol solution. Store clean implements in a covered container.		

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MN	The disinfectant used must be registered with the EPA as tuberculocidal. Store implements in clean, closed containers.		
MISSISSIPPI	Disinfection requires immersion of the working parts of the instruments in a solution of 70% alcohol for not less than 5 minutes. Contact points of non-immersible equipment will be wiped or sprayed with an EPA-registered, hospital-grade, bactericidal, virucidal, and fungicidal disinfectant. The solution will be mixed and used according to manufacturer's instructions for dilution and immersion time. The container will be large enough for total immersion of the open implement and will contain the appropriate amount of solution for the number of items to be disinfected. The container will have a cover in place at all times, labeled as to its contents, and be easily accessible to all practitioners. Each establishment will have and use for disinfection at all times during business hours, a wet disinfectant container made of glass, stainless steel, or the type recommended by the manufacturer. Implements are to be removed from the disinfectant in such a manner as not to contaminate the disinfectant solution (using tongs, baskets, and such), and placed on a clean dry towel for air-drying. Ultraviolet ray cabinets may be used, but are not acceptable as approved disinfecting devices. Glass bead sterilizers are not an acceptable disinfectant. Store disinfected tools in a clean, sanitized, closed receptacle or cabinet.	All supplies such as cotton, ear pads, neck strips, and protectors that cannot be sanitized by one of the procedures covered by Rule 809 must be discarded immediately after use.	Thorough cleansing of the working parts of the instruments with soap and water or other detergent immediately after each use, and prior to disinfection, so as to remove all foreign material which might harbor bacteria. Immersion of the working parts of the instruments in a solution of 70% alcohol for not less than 5 minutes. Contact points of non-immersible equipment will be wiped or sprayed with an EPA-registered, hospital-grade, bactericidal, virucidal, and fungicidal disinfectant.
MISSOURI	Immerse tools for no less than 5 minutes in an EPA-registered disinfectant according to manufacturer's instructions. Solution must have virucidal, fungicidal, and bactericidal properties. Store in solution or in an airtight or covered container, separate from unclean tools.		
MONTANA	All tools and implements must be completely immersed in a board-approved sanitizing agent of proper strength and for the necessary time period according to manufacturer instructions. Disinfect by complete immersion in an EPA-registered, bactericidal, virucidal, fungicidal, and pseudomonocidal (formulated for hospitals) disinfectant that is mixed and used according to the manufacturer's directions. Store sanitized implements and tools in a disinfected, dry, covered container and separated from used or soiled implements and tools.	Single-service items must be used only once and properly disposed of after use.	Contact points of all non-immersible equipment and metal implements must be cleaned with a detergent solution and wiped or sprayed with a board-approved sanitizing agent.
NEBRASKA	Place implements in an EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant 10 minutes or more. Spray the implement until it is totally saturated with an EPA-registered disinfectant that is proven effective against HIV-1, Hepatitis B, or tuberculocidal. Store sanitized implements in a clean, closed container.	A new or sanitized nail file must be used on each client. If the file is to be reused on the same client, it can be kept in a container labeled with the client's name (it must still be disinfected). Used disposable supplies must be discarded immediately after use in a clean, closed waste receptacle.	Remove all foreign matter, spray with an EPA-registered disinfectant that is proven effective against HIV-1, Hepatitis B, or tuberculocidal; and wipe dry with a clean towel.
NEVADA	Place tools in a covered wet sanitizer large enough for complete immersion of the instrument and which contains a disinfecting solution registered with the EPA and is acceptable to the board and utilized in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Store all disinfected instruments in a clean, dry sanitizer. A dry sanitizer consists of a clean, closed container, drawer or storage unit with a fumigant that contains only disinfected instruments, implements, and other tools.	All instruments and supplies, including, without limitation, neck strips, nail files, and buffers, that come into direct contact with a client and cannot subsequently be disinfected must be disposed of in a waste receptacle immediately following use.	Clippers, vibrators, and other electrical instruments must be disinfected in the following manner before use: Remove all foreign matter, disinfect with a disinfectant registered with the EPA as a bactericide, fungicide, or virucide and used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Anything that comes into contact with a client must be sanitized after each use or thrown away in a covered container. Sanitized means disinfected with an EPA-registered product that is tuberculocidal or disinfected using ultraviolet light (following manufacturer's instructions). Store in a closed container.	Dispose of in a covered container.	

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NJ	Sanitize means to disinfect by means of a product registered with the EPA as a tuberculocidal disinfectant. Ultraviolet light disinfection is also acceptable.		
NEW MEXICO	Implements must be sanitized in an appropriate germicidal solution by immersion according to the product manufacturer's direction.	All supplies that come in contact with the public and cannot be disinfected (for example, emery boards, sponges, cotton pads) shall be disposed of immediately after use.	
NEW YORK	Disinfectants must be registered by the EPA as a hospital-grade disinfectant and the active ingredients and scope of activity clearly described on the original label. Store clean and dry implements in a drawer, cabinet, or covered container. Implements requiring sterilization shall be autoclaved or immersed for no less than 10 hours in a liquid sterilant registered by the EPA		
N. CAROLINA	Disinfect tools in accordance with manufacturer's instructions that state the solution will destroy HIV virus, tuberculosis, or HBV. Solution must be approved by the federal EPA. After cleaning, store in clean, closed cabinet.		
N. DAKOTA	Completely immerse tools in an appropriate container with an effective germicidal solution prepared and used in accordance with directions on the label.		All metal tools shall be sanitized with a disinfectant solution after each use and stored in a closed container until next use.
OHIO	Acceptable solutions are bleach solution, alcohol, or EPA-approved disinfectant that is used according to the manufacturer's instructions. Store clean tools in clean, closed sanitary drawer or box, etc.	Dispose of after single use.	Clean and disinfect after every use. Also keep biweekly record of cleaning and disinfecting (forms available from Board).
OK	Totally immerse tools in disinfectant that has been registered with the EPA as having demonstrated tuberculocidal, bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal activity.	Items that cannot be disinfected must be disposed of.	Disinfect the bits before use to avoid the risk of infection.
OREGON	"Disinfect" means to use a process to destroy harmful organisms, including bacteria, viruses, germs, and fungi. Use solution that "disinfects" according to manufacturer's instructions. Store cleaned tools separately from all others.	Dispose of after each client any single-use products.	First remove all foreign matter then disinfect with a low-level disinfectant according to manufacturer's instructions.
PA	Tools that come into contact with a client shall be sanitized immediately after each use and maintained in a sanitary condition at all times.		
RHODE ISLAND	Treat instruments with an effective disinfectant registered by the EPA that has demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal activity and use according to manufacturer's instructions. Store clean tools in a manner that will prevent recontamination.		Remove foreign matter; treat with an EPA-registered disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, virucidal activity, used according to manufacturer's instructions.
S. CAROLINA	Totally immerse tools for 10 minutes in either (a) an EPA-registered disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal activity used according to manufacturer's instructions, or (b) 70% isopropyl alcohol for at least 10 minutes. Store in a clean, covered place.	Dispose of all supplies or instruments that come in direct contact with a patron and cannot be disinfected (for example, cotton pads, emery boards used on the natural nail, and neck strips) in a waste receptacle.	Remove all foreign matter and disinfect with EPA-registered disinfectant with demonstrated bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal activity used according to manufacturer's instructions.
S. DAKOTA	Use a solution that is a bactericidal, virucidal, and fungicidal disinfecting agent and is registered with EPA. Store disinfected electrical and non-electrical equipment in separate, clean, closed containers.	Single-use articles shall be disposed of immediately after use in a closed waste receptacle.	Electrical equipment must be disinfected by removing foreign matter and applying a disinfectant that stops bactericidal, fungicidal, and virucidal activity.



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TENNESSEE	Tools require complete immersion for at least 10 minutes in an EPA-registered, bactericidal, virucidal, fungicidal, tuberculocidal, and pseudomonacidal (formulated for hospitals) disinfectant that is mixed and used according to the manufacturer's directions. Store disinfected implements in a disinfected, dry, covered container.		
TEXAS	Clean tools in the wet soaking container filled with disinfectant solution, completely immerse for 10 minutes, or according to the manufacturer's direction. Remove tools and implements after 10 minutes, wipe dry with a clean towel, and store in a dry storage container. Ultraviolet electrical sanitizers are permissible for use as a dry storage container.	Disposable items used for cosmetology and related services must be disposed of after each use.	
UTAH	Acceptable methods include: 1) Dry heat and temperature of 338°F (170°C) for at least one hour; 2) Sodium Hypochlorite solution of 200 parts per million of chlorine for at least two minutes; 3) Formalin in 10% solution for at least 20 minutes; 4) Quaternary ammonium solutions of 1,000 parts per million for 10 minutes; 5) 70% solution of alcohol for 20 minutes; 6) Boiling water at 212°F (100°C) for 15 minutes; 7) Steam sterilization at 15 pounds (one atmosphere) pressure at 248°F (120°C) for 30 minutes; or other methods approved by the Director. Store tools in closed cabinets and covered containers used only for storing clean supplies.	Discard immediately after use on a patron.	
VERMONT	For 10 minutes after each use, completely immerse tools in a wet disinfection unit. Unit must have a cover to prevent contamination of the solution, which must be an EPA-registered, hospital-grade, and tuberculocidal disinfectant solution. After immersion, rinse articles, thoroughly dry with a clean paper towel, and store in a clean pre-disinfected and dry cabinet, drawer, or non-airtight covered container, in a UV light cabinet, or leave instruments in an EPA-registered disinfection/storage solution (according to manufacturer's directions).		Remove all debris. Clean drill bits with warm water and soap/detergent; rinse, thoroughly dry with clean paper towel, and completely immerse in an EPA-registered, hospital-grade, and tuberculocidal disinfectant solution, soaking for 10 minutes or more. Then remove, rinse, dry tools thoroughly, and store in a pre-disinfected drawer, cabinet, or non-airtight covered container, or UV light cabinet, or leave in EPA-registered disinfection/storage solution according to manufacturer's directions.
VIRGINIA	For at least 10 minutes, fully immerse instruments into solution, then rinse articles, thoroughly dry with a clean paper towel, and store in a clean pre-disinfected and dry cabinet, drawer, or non-airtight covered container, or leave instruments in an EPA-registered disinfection/storage solution used according to manufacturer's directions.		
WA	Use an EPA-registered disinfectant, bleach, or alcohol.	Double-bag and discard the file.	
WEST VIRGINIA	Instruments shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by immersion in an approved disinfecting solution. For the purposes of this rule, an approved disinfectant means a one-thousandth (1/1000) solution of quaternary ammonium salts of high germicidal activity, or its equivalent. Store clean tools in dry, clean cabinet used only for storing clean tools.	Discard after use on each individual client.	Soak drill bits in acetone and scrub with a wire brush to remove all foreign matter. The drill bits must then be cleaned with warm water and soap or detergent and rinsed, dried thoroughly with a clean paper towel, and completely immersed in an EPA-registered, hospital-grade and tuberculocidal disinfectant solution. Soak for 10 minutes or more, remove, rinse, dry thoroughly, and store in a pre-disinfected and dry drawer, cabinet, or non-airtight covered container, or leave in an EPA-registered disinfection/storage solution used according to manufacturer's directions.
WI	Spray with a tuberculocidal disinfectant and air dry. Store in a clean, covered container.	Dispose of after each use.	
WYOMING	Use an EPA-registered, hospital-grade, bactericidal, virucidal, and fungicidal disinfectant. Store all sanitized tools, instruments, and towels in closed, dry cabinets or containers.	All reusable articles that come in contact with a client's skin and nail shall be cleaned and effectively disinfected after each use or must be disposed of.	■