

Six Tips to a “Worry-Free” Nail Service

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You want your nails done. You want that pampering experience that only a professional pedicure can provide. But you're worried. Is your salon safe? As a professional in the industry, I feel it is important for the average customer to know how to judge a quality nail experience. Here is a list of the top things to look for before you book that appointment.

1. Let your eyes be your guide. Is the Salon clean? Are there disinfectant jars visible at each station? Are all metal implements soaking in disinfectant? This solution (usually blue or green) should be clear and free of visible debris.
2. Is the Salon license current and available for viewing? Does each technician have her license in full view? If you are uncertain about the licensing of any salon, you can go to www.myfloridalicense.com and check out any salon's credentials under Board of Cosmetology.
3. How did the salon perform on its last State Inspection? Florida inspectors come into every salon “unannounced” and perform “surprise” inspections. The results of these are to be posted for every customer to see. How did your salon perform? Ask to see the report. A high grade should give you peace of mind that the salon is complying with all state regulations and guidelines.
4. Are top quality name-brand acrylics being used? Only use a salon that features high-end acrylics to ensure a safe service. Cheaper acrylics adhere very well to the nail bed, creating the illusion to the customer that they are of high quality, but they can be very damaging to your natural nail. Some contain the dangerous ingredient MMA. Quality acrylics are softer and less damaging to your nail bed. These products cost a few dollars more but provide a safer service in the end.
5. The Pedicure Chair – how do you know if it's safe? Standard foot spas can have a high risk of contaminated water remaining in the jets from a previous pedicure. The newest chairs in the industry offer “pipeless, jet-free” technology. These chairs still have the “swooshing” action of a whirlpool, but it is provided by an electronic spinner with no pipes behind it. These chairs are expensive to purchase and costly to install, but they do provide the consumer with an unparalleled sanitary experience. A pedicure in this type of equipment might be more costly, but the end benefit to your safety is well worth it.
6. Does your salon use razor blades? Misinformed consumers seem to believe that the use of razors in pedicures make for a better result, not understanding that their use is illegal in Florida as well as many other states. A quality salon will use top of the line products that safely remove calluses and dead skin without the use of razors. A properly done pedicure by a properly trained technician will provide a quality pedicure without the use of razor blades.

So you want your nails, both hands and feet, to look and feel great. It is my hope that these tips will guide you in your search for a quality nail service where your safety is the top priority. Your nail service should be an experience that is both rewarding and fun. So show off those beautiful hands and feet, now that you've found a salon that provides you with “worry-free” service!