

# HAIRDRESSING PREMISES

## A Summary of Structural Requirements

### Design and Construction

The design and layout of premises used for the dressing of hair must take into account the legislative requirements relating to their construction and provision of facilities. These requirements are found in the Health (Hairdressers) Regulations 1980 and the Building Act 1991, Approved Documents. The specific structural requirements are set out in regulation 4, 'Minimum standards for hairdresser's shop'. All hairdressing premises must meet these standards and be registered by the local authority before they can be used as a hairdresser's shop.

### Floors, Walls and Ceilings

The materials used for the lining of the floors, walls and ceilings in any hairdressing premise should be suitable to the work or process carried out on the premises.

Any area of the floors, walls and ceiling that may become wet must be lined or surfaced with a smooth, durable material that is impervious to water. It is also recommended that the floor be covered up the wall to prevent hair or debris from getting trapped in corner spaces. This is most important for walls and flooring around the hair wash basins, where water is likely to be splashed about.

Many products are available which fulfil these needs e.g. hipalong AHI (sample), seratone, reotone, hardboard with a high gloss finish. All these have jointing systems usually of plastic material which when properly used in a vertical alignment are adequate to prevent the lodgement of dust or dirt and are tightly fitting to prevent anything getting behind and causing problems.

Light colours are encouraged for walls, floors and ceilings as it can be easily seen when these light coloured surfaces require cleaning. Light colours also reflect well to aid further in cleaning and make conditions safer to work in.

### Lighting

Lighting must be adequate for the efficient and safe operation of the premises and for ease of cleaning.

Light coloured surfaces and thought as to the placing of lights can lead to a safer and easier work environment. People should not have to work with sharp scissors or razors in poor light, as this can be dangerous for themselves and the customer, and is difficult to see that you are doing a

good job. Lighting should be reasonably free from glare and avoid causing shadows.

Lighting must be no less than 300lux at working surfaces, and overall not less than 100lux at any point 800mm above the floor.

### **Ventilation**

The ventilation of the premises shall be sufficient to prevent condensation or excessive moisture on the walls and ceilings, and shall remove objectionable odours and fumes.

Fumes from perming solutions and other hairdressing chemicals can be offensive and even toxic if there are insufficient air changes within the premises. Mould growth is also likely to occur where warm and wet activities are carried out without sufficient airflow.

The exhaust air from clothes dryers should be ducted to the outside of the premises so as to prevent moisture build up in these areas.

Natural ventilation will often be satisfactory however where there is a lack of windows or a confined space for towel drying, mechanical ventilation may be required. An extract fan or circulating fan (with open windows) are two alternatives that can be used.

### **Floor Space and the Service Area**

The floor space shall be sufficient to permit easy access for cleaning. There should be adequate space to cater for all equipment used, while still allowing access to floor areas for cleaning.

There should be at least 2.3 square metres for each customer being attended to.

Service chairs used for haircutting shall be at least 1.5 metres apart, measured centre to centre.

Waiting areas shall be no less than 4.6 square metres.

No materials or equipment (other than those used in the dressing of hair) shall be stored in any service area.

No service area shall be in direct communication with any room where food is prepared for sale, or where food is not completely enclosed in a wrapper is stored or held for sale.

Every shelf bench or table on which tools or equipment are to be placed shall have a smooth durable surface finish that is impervious to water.

## **Refuse Disposal**

Every hairdressing shop must at all times be kept in good repair, clean and free from rubbish, foul odours, vermin and insects.

The premises must have an adequate number of vermin proof containers of suitable material for all refuse and waste and be emptied and cleaned on a daily basis. The bins should have lids on while not being filled or emptied.

## **Water Supply**

As the premises will use a lot of water in its day to day activities a water meter must be provided.

A backflow prevention valve (high hazard) will also need to be installed to prevent any backflow of grey water or hairdressing chemicals into the water reticulation system.

## **Sanitary Facilities**

These include toilets, sinks, hair wash basins and hand basins.

### ***Toilets***

The number of staff toilet facilities required is laid down in the (NZ) Building Code and is dependent on the numbers of staff and the type of premises.

### ***Wash hand basins***

Wash hand basins must be provided as follows:

1. At least one basin for every 10 chairs used for hair cutting
2. At least one such basin within 6 metres of each chair
3. Each basin must be supplied with hot and cold running water, soap, a nailbrush and single use towels

### ***Hair Basins***

If hair is to be washed on the premises, there shall be sufficient shampoo basins or troughs supplied with hot and cold running water and used exclusively for shampooing or cleansing hair.

### ***Sinks***

The premises MUST also be provided with a sufficient number of sinks supplied with hot and cold running water for the cleansing of hairdressing tools. The sink may not be installed in any room used by staff as a meal room.

## **General Information**

With knowledge of these basic requirements, it is possible to begin designing your hairdressing premises.

Once the thought and design is complete and a sketch plan layout is available it is then time to submit it for the necessary building consents. If you have not already consulted an Environmental Health Officer for advice he/she will see the results at this time and may make comments, request further information and carry out additional site visits. This will help to ensure that all legislative requirements are met and registration is possible before building and subsequent opening of your premises.