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**Board of Cosmetology**  
**Position Statement: Fish Pedicures**

- Athletic Trainers
- Barbers
- Body Piercing Technicians
- Denturists
- Direct Entry Midwives
- Electrologists
- Environmental Health Specialists
- Estheticians
- Hair Designers
- Hearing Aid Specialists
- Nail Technicians**
- Permanent Color Technicians
- Respiratory Therapists
- Sex Offender Therapists
- Tattoo Artists
- Waste Water Specialists

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- Board of Athletic Trainers
  - Board of Cosmetology**
  - Board of Direct Entry Midwifery
  - Board of Denture Technology
  - Environmental Health Registration Board
  - Respiratory Therapist Licensing Board
  - Sex Offender Treatment Board
  - Advisory Council on Hearing Aids
  - Advisory Council for Electrologists, Permanent Color Technicians & Tattoo Artists

## OHLA, Board of Cosmetology Prohibit Fish Pedicures Due to Potential for Cross Contamination

While the idea of toothless fish nibbling at your feet and ankles as part of a pedicure may seem innocuous on the surface, the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) and Board of Cosmetology are asking practitioners to see what lies beneath: a potential route for transmissible bacteria and other pathogens.

Until interested parties can provide independent research indicating that fish used in providing nail technology services are able to meet Oregon health, safety and infection control requirements, OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology prohibit use of the fish by licensed practitioners in licensed facilities.

As always, OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology base policy decisions on established regulatory standards and requirements. We are basing this decision on the following Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR):

**OAR 817-010-0101(5):** *Foot spa equipment shall be cleaned and disinfected with a high-level disinfectant after use on each client.*

**OAR 817-010-0068:** *All tools and implements used within a field of practice shall be disinfected before use on each client.*

**OAR 817-010-0095:** *Pets or other animals shall not be permitted in a facility at any time. This prohibition does not apply to trained guide dogs for the disabled, sightless, or hearing impaired or to fish in aquariums.*

We encourage practitioners or others interested in fish pedicures to provide documentation indicating that fish used for fish pedicures are free of potentially transmissible pathogens that could pass from the fish to the customer.

Our aim is to fully protect the health and safety of the public by carefully considering the potential risk of services and communicating those risks and requirements to practitioners and the public.

*OHLA and the Board of Cosmetology adopted this position statement on November 3, 2008.*