

More on Safety

We encourage practitioners to review these brochures to keep current on other state requirements:

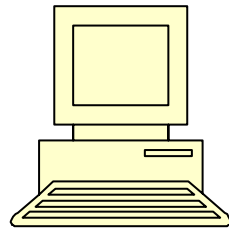
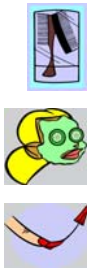
- **Client Records: Required**
- **Nail Technician Tool Safety**
- **Foot Spa Safety**

Find brochures at www.oregon.gov/OHLA or contact us at (503) 378-8667 or ohla.info@state.or.us to order copies.

The **Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA)** is a state consumer protection agency. OHLA provides centralized regulatory oversight for multiple volunteer citizen boards, advisory councils and licensing programs of health and related professions.

We help protect Oregon consumers by setting, communicating and enforcing uniform regulatory standards.

The **Board of Cosmetology** consists of six licensed practitioners and one public member. OHLA boards and councils help to set educational and professional scope of practice standards but are not responsible for OHLA central agency administration.



Find it online!

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www.oregon.gov/OHLA



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Turn to **Oregon Regulatory News** in *Northwest Stylist & Salon* every month for the latest news from the Board of Cosmetology and the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA). *Northwest Stylist* is distributed free to cosmetology facilities, independent contractors and cosmetology schools statewide.



Publication OHLA-58 (Rev 7/2007)

Board of
Cosmetology



**STAY
AWAY**
from **MMA**



OREGON
HEALTH
LICENSING
AGENCY

NAIL TECHNOLOGY

Stay Away from MMA

Methyl methacrylate monomer (MMA), when used in cosmetic fingernail preparations, is “...**a poisonous and deleterious substance.**”

So states the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). By the end of the 1970s, the FDA received so many complaints related to the use of MMA that it was forced to take legal action against several manufacturers.

Using MMA is **PROHIBITED** in Oregon.

Let's Stay Safe!

We hope this brochure clarifies any lingering questions regarding the use of MMA. The bottom line (besides beautiful nails, of course!) is the health and safety of both clients and practitioners.

If you have any questions that this brochure doesn't answer, just ask!

📞 Call **503-378-8667**

✉ E-mail ohla.info@state.or.us

❓ Ask an OHLA enforcement officer during a **salon inspection**

Dangers of MMA

MMA-related complaints have ranged from adverse skin reactions to permanent loss of the nail plate. It can also cause loss of sensation in the finger tips.



Once referred to as “dental acrylics” or “porcelain nails,” MMA products create enhancements that are too rigid for the natural nail plate. MMA enhancements resist breaking if accidentally caught or jammed. This may lead to painful breakage of the nail plate and infection.

MMA Warning Signs



Unusually strong or strange odor



Artificial nails that are difficult to file or that will not soak off in solvents

For Licensees

Examine product labels to check that the product contains safe formulations (see **Acrylic Confusion?** below). Labels on products with MMA probably won't reveal MMA as an ingredient because it's **PROHIBITED** in many states and countries, **including Oregon.**



Acrylic Confusion?

The different types—or formulations—of acrylic nail products may confuse both practitioners and clients. Products containing solid *polymerized* MMA (PMMA) are safe to use.

The polymer in PMMA is much larger than MMA, so PMMA cannot penetrate the skin.

Most manufacturers now formulate liquid products with liquid *ethyl* methacrylate (EMA), which is also safe to use.

Ouch! Financial damages also a good reason not to use MMA

From December 2001 issue of NAILS magazine:

What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

A jury in Roanoke, Va., didn't care that the owners of a nail salon said they didn't know they were using MMA and slapped them with a \$150,000 judgment.