

## SKIN PENETRATION / BEAUTY THERAPY PREMISES

### Health legislation requirements

Operators who perform skin penetration procedures are required by law to operate at high standards of infection control and must comply with the *Health (Skin Penetration Procedures) Regulations 1998* and *Code of Practice for Skin Penetration Procedures*.

To view the complete requirements, please see links below:

- [Health \(Skin Penetration Procedures\) Regulations 1998 \(external site\)](#)
- [Code of Practice for Skin Penetration Procedures \(PDF 324KB\)](#)

Skin penetration is a procedure which incorporates:

- the skin being cut, punctured, torn or shaved
- a mucous membrane being cut, punctured or torn.

Some beauty therapies, such as waxing, shaving, tweezing and electrolysis are also considered a skin penetration procedure, as is the practice of acupuncture.

<b>(a) A non-critical procedure:</b>	<p>Is where an appliance may come into contact with intact skin but does not penetrate skin or come into contact with mucosa or blood.</p> <p>These appliances require <b>cleaning</b>.</p>
<b>(b) A semi-critical procedure:</b>	<p>Is where appliances come into contact with mucosa or blood.</p> <p>Such items must be <b>disinfected</b>.</p>
<b>(c) A critical procedure:</b>	<p>Is where appliances enter or penetrate the skin.</p> <p>Such appliances require cleaning and <b>sterilisation</b>.</p>

WA establishments wishing to perform skin penetration procedures are required to notify the local government of their proposed procedures prior to commencing. Before you open your establishment, you should provide the City with a copy of the layout, including details about the location of fixtures, such as hand basins and sinks, and materials used for shelving and flooring to ensure compliance with the Code of Practice for Skin Penetration Procedures.

Home-based skin penetration businesses are not approved to carry out critical procedures, unless the fit out of the business can achieve full compliance with the *Health (Skin Penetration Procedures) Regulations 1998* and *Code of Practice for Skin Penetration Procedures*. Part of the critical requirements includes setting up a separated **Procedures Area** and **Preparation Area** for the business. Additionally, planning approval may be required.

There are specific requirements for the layout of a skin penetration establishment which are outlined in section 7 of the Code.

### Skin penetration procedures area

The skin penetration procedures area is the area where the skin penetration procedure will take place. For example, the area where a client will be pierced, tattooed, or waxed.

Design requirements:

- Floors, floor coverings, walls, ceilings, shelves, fittings and other furniture in this area must be made from materials suitable for the procedures undertaken here. These must be kept clean and in good repair.
- All surfaces that come into direct contact with client's skin is smooth, impervious and in good repair. For example, client chairs or beds must be made of a material that can be easily cleaned after each use.
- A hand basin with a hot and cold water supply, soap and paper towels provided in the immediate area where the skin penetration procedures are undertaken. The hand basin should be easily accessible to allow the person performing the procedure to wash their hands thoroughly before and after. It is recommended that liquid soap from a pump dispenser be used for hand washing.

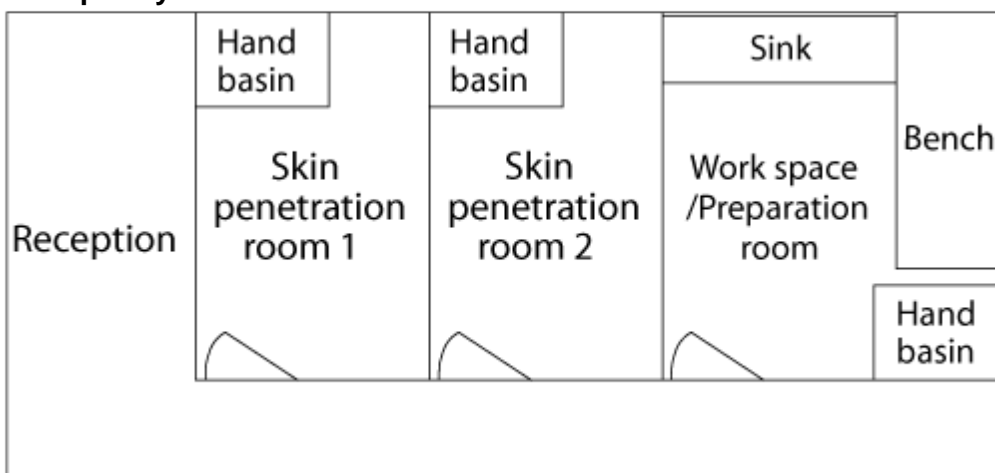
For new premises or those undergoing refurbishment it is mandatory to install a hands-free basin. The basin must be supplied with hot and cold water supply through a single outlet. A hands-free basin is one which can be operated without use of hands. The Code advises that hands-free basins should be knee- or elbow-operated.

### Work space and preparation area

The work space is where appliances are stored, for example an autoclave. The preparation area is where appliances are prepared before use. Design requirements:

- The work space and preparation areas must be separated from the client treatment area (procedure areas).
- This area must have at least 2 designated sinks; one for hand washing and another for cleaning and decontaminating equipment. Permanent water supply and plumbing are required.
- All sinks must be made of suitable materials, such as stainless steel.
- All work surfaces should be smooth and impervious, and all floors must be smooth, impervious and non-slip.
- There should be sufficient bench space to accommodate equipment.

### Example layout



## Applying for approval

Before applying, it is recommended to consult with the City's Planning Services (1300 422 664) to find out if a Development Approval is required. For general information about home-occupation and home-business, please see [Planning Information Sheet: Home Based Business](#). You can find the application form to register a skin penetration premises here: [City of Canning - Application lodgement](#)

Additional information can be found on the Department of Health web site:

- [Skin penetration procedures and the law – Department of Health WA](#)
- [Body art and personal appearance – Department of Health WA](#)
- [Guide to cleaning and disinfecting equipment for the body art, beauty and nail industries – Department of Health WA](#)

## **PLEASE NOTE: the following information items must be provided with a skin penetration application.**

1. Copy of the internal fittings detailed layout showing the locations of the following:
  - a) Procedures area e.g. for waxing, tattooing, massage etc. (please indicate the type of floor covering, walls, ceiling, shelves, fittings and any other furniture present);
  - b) Hands free type hand wash basin supplied with hot and cold water, soap and paper towels in the immediate treatment area;
  - c) Sink designated for cleaning and decontaminating equipment only;
  - d) Work space and preparation area (separate from treatment areas);
  - e) Work stations;
  - f) Instruments and equipment storage area;
  - g) Preparation area for refreshments;
  - h) General waste and medical wastes receptacles;
  - i) Laundry facilities;
  - j) natural/mechanical ventilation & certificate of compliance for AS1668 & AS3666 (e.g. windows, evaporative air conditioner outlet, exhaust/extraction etc.);
  - k) Staff facilities including kitchen sink and storage cupboard;
  - l) Sanitary facilities.
2. Details of sterilisation equipment(s) to be used (if applicable)  
Please include the following details:
  - Specifications
  - Details of calibration including certificate of calibration
  - Details of maintenance including servicing details and log sheets
3. Cleaning, disinfection and/or sterilisation plan (if applicable).