

INSPECTION INSIGHTS

THE MOST FREQUENT COMPLIANCE ISSUES IN 2025

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit inspects personal service businesses to make sure they follow Ontario's [Personal Service Settings Regulation](#) and good infection control practices. Our main goal is to keep your clients safe and healthy.

When we look back at the most common issues found during inspections in 2025, we see a few key areas, and we've highlighted these along with simple tips and resources to help you stay on track in 2026.

1. APPROVED DISINFECTANTS ARE PROVIDED AND USED APPROPRIATELY

You must use disinfectants that are approved by Health Canada and follow the instructions on the label.

How to check if a disinfectant is approved

Look for one of these on the product:

- Drug Identification Number (DIN)
- A Natural Product Number (NPN)
- The product is listed on Health Canada's Medical Devices Active Licence Listing

Note: Bleach is the only product that does not need a DIN or NPN.

Follow the instructions on the label

Always read the product label so you know:

- Which surfaces it can be used on
- How to apply it
- Contact time (how long it needs to stay wet)
- Its expiry date
- What personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed
- What germs it can kill

For products such as [bleach](#) and [alcohol](#), you can use our posters for specific directions.

Additional guidance is available in **Public Health Ontario's** [At a Glance: Disinfectant Tables](#).

Durham Region Health Department has a [poster](#) on how to read disinfectant labels.



2. CLEAN AND DISINFECT REUSABLE TOOLS/EQUIPMENT PROPERLY

To keep your clients safe, clean and disinfect reusable tools/equipment after every client or anytime they get contaminated (e.g., if they fall on the floor).

Put used tools into the cleaning sink right away.

Remember: Do not put dirty (used) tools back at your station until they've been fully cleaned and disinfected.

Steps for cleaning and disinfecting:

1. Clean with detergent, gloves and a brush
2. Rinse
3. Dry with a clean towel or let it air dry
4. Disinfect using the correct disinfectant for that tool
5. Rinse
6. Dry again
7. Store in a clean, closed container

Our posters below show these steps for different tools:

- [Aesthetics tools](#)
- [Hairstyling and barbering tools](#)

3. KEEP RECORDS

The regulation requires some businesses to keep certain records. These include:

- Client Records
- Accidental Exposure Records
- Disinfectant Log
- Sterilization Log
- Invasive Procedure Records
- Explanation of Services and Risks

You can find descriptions and links to templates on **page 15** of our [Guide for Operating Personal Service Settings in Simcoe Muskoka](#).



4. USE SINGLE-USE ITEMS CORRECTLY

Some tools can only be used once because they cannot be cleaned or disinfected (e.g., absorbent or heavily grooved surfaces). These **must be thrown away right after use**.

Examples of single-use items include:

- Nail files and buffers
- Wax rollers and sticks
- Ink caps
- Dremel sanding bands
- Glue rings
- Gloves and masks
- Barrier film

Helpful Tips:

- **Throw away right away:** Do not put used items back at your station. Throw them out right away in a garbage bin.
- **Check your products:** Items bought online must come with instructions showing they are safe for use on multiple people and can be cleaned and disinfected. If not, they must be used for a single-use and thrown away.
- **Keep personal items separate:** Do not keep your personal tools with client tools.

FINAL TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Before buying new equipment, talk to your area public health inspector. They can help you make sure the items meet the rules and help prevent costly errors.

For full details on how to run a personal service setting (PSS), see the [Guide for Operating Personal Service Settings in Simcoe Muskoka](#).

If you have any questions about the rules or infection prevention and control (IPAC), call your area inspector, or the IPAC team at **705-721-7520 ext. 5744** - they're available to assist you.

For more resources, visit smdhu.org/PSS.

