



For questions, comments, or complaints,
contact the Board.

BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY
2420 DEL PASO ROAD, SUITE 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834
www.barbercosmo.ca.gov
800-952-5210



Cosmetologists and estheticians are licensed and regulated in California by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board). The Board works to ensure that cosmetologists and estheticians follow State law and established infection control standards.

Here are some tips and information that consumers should keep in mind when considering and receiving a wax service.



Waxing

SAFETY TIPS

BEFORE YOUR WAX SERVICE

- Look around to see if the salon is clean and tidy, and that tools look sanitary as well.
- Check that your cosmetologist or esthetician has their license displayed at their workstation and that it has not expired. Note that it is out of the scope of practice for a manicurist to perform a wax service; manicurists have not been properly trained in waxing procedures.
- Make sure your technician washes their hands before serving you. If they don't, ask him or her to do so. The Board also recommends your technician wear gloves during any waxing procedure.
- Check if the wax pot is clean and free of excessive wax drippings.
- See if the wax rollers are clean. Some technicians use a roller to apply the wax instead of a wax stick. Either the roller head needs to be replaced with a fresh disposable one or the head should be cleaned and sanitized between clients.
- Ask what disinfection procedures your technician is using and how the salon sanitizes its tools.
- Make sure disposable items, such as wax sticks, are immediately thrown away after use. No double-dipping in the wax pot!
- Check that your treatment table is covered with a fresh, clean towel or a sheet of new treatment table paper.

DO NOT WAX

- Irritated, inflamed, or open wounds.
- Your legs, if you have varicose veins.
- Any area that has a rash, recent scar tissue, skin graft, cold sore, mole, wart, or pimple.
- Any part of your face or body where you have received Botox or collagen injections.
- Anywhere that has been waxed within the last 24 hours.
- Over or around body piercings.
- Areas where you have recently used skin care products that contain salicylic acid, glycolic acid, and/or alpha hydroxyl acids of any kind.
- If you have recently received aggressive exfoliation of the skin, such as microdermabrasion, dermabrasion, and/or chemical peels.
- If you have taken or are using prescription medications, such as antibiotics, Accutane, topical ointments or creams (e.g., Retin-A or Renova), and/or acne medication.
- If you have lupus or AIDS or you are in cancer therapy getting chemotherapy or radiation.
- If you have been in direct sunlight for a long period of time or in a tanning bed within the last 24 hours or your skin is sunburned.



YOU MAY WANT TO SKIP A WAXING SERVICE

- While you are pregnant or taking birth control, hormone replacement, or antibiotics medications. During this time, your skin can be more sensitive to waxing. You may consider having your technician perform a patch test before he or she attempts a full service.
- If you are a smoker or have rosacea. Dilated capillaries can be sensitive to the waxing process.
- If you take blood thinners, or have diabetes or phlebitis. These are medical conditions. Please consult with your doctor before receiving a waxing procedure.
- If you recently drank a large amount of caffeine or alcohol. Stimulants and depressants can cause your skin to be extra sensitive to waxing. Wait until they are out of your system before getting a waxing service.

AFTER THE SERVICE

It is important to remember waxing services can have unfavorable results, including an allergic reaction, irritation, burning, redness, scarring, and soreness. Some skin layers can thin and possibly lift off when waxed, especially if you recently received another service or use skin care products or medications described in this brochure.

REMEMBER—If you **See Something** not quite right, **Say Something**, first to your wax technician and then to the salon owner. If there is no resolution, **Say Something** to the Board by calling **800-952-5210** or by filing a complaint online at **www.BreEZe.ca.gov**.

Let's work together for a safe, healthy salon experience.

Ensuring the health and safety of California consumers by promoting ethical standards and by enforcing the laws of the barbering and beauty industry.

