



Let's dispel a few myths.

1. Gloves snag clients' hair.

Snagging is unlikely if your gloves are smooth, non-latex and longer-length, as recommended by HSE, and if your gloves fit snugly.

2. Clients object to gloves.

Many people understand the importance of skin care and would have no objection to gloves.

3. Gloves cut into profit margins.

A pair of disposable non-latex gloves costs less than 10p, a very small proportion of the cost of a haircut/hair treatment. However, the costs associated with dermatitis could be considerable – you could lose clients, lose staff to sickness and in some cases lose staff for good.

4. Gloves make it difficult to detect water temperature.

Disposable non-latex gloves are made of lightweight material and, if they fit well, allow you to feel the temperature as you mix.

5. Some hand creams can act as barriers.

There are no true 'barrier' creams: chemicals will always reach the skin. However, moisturising creams used regularly as part of a skin care regime will help keep skin hydrated and supple, preventing dermatitis.

6. You need to toughen-up your hands by avoiding gloves.

Tough, hardened skin = damaged skin. Hardening is not an answer and will not prevent dermatitis.

7. Latex gloves are best.

Latex gloves can cause skin reactions and asthma. Many people, perhaps including your clients, are allergic to latex. In extreme cases people have died through anaphylactic shock from exposure to latex.

