

Face and Body Painting Guidelines

Including Henna Art, Temporary Tattoos and Airbrushing

PAINT AND SUPPLIES

- 1) Paints, crayons, pens, inks and other cosmetic preparations must be safe and specifically designed for use on human skin. “Non-toxic” on the labels does not necessarily mean that it is safe to put on the skin. Some people are allergic to chemicals and colorants used in craft paints (i.e.: Acrylic paints) and other stationary products.
- 2) Craft glitter is not meant for face and body applications. Any glitter must be designed for use on humans. Inappropriate glitter may cause corneal scarring if it enters the eye, resulting in irreversible damage. It is recommended that glitter not be used at all near the eyes.
- 3) The operator must ensure that *Black Henna* ink does not contain p-phenylenediamine, or PPD; a chemical that is known to cause rashes, sores, burns, blisters and scarring.
- 4) The bulk supplies of ink, make-up and paint must be stored and handled in a sanitary manner to avoid contamination. Examples include:
 - scraping portions of paint and make-up into single-use dishes for each service
 - using a new applicator (brush, cotton swab, sponge, toothpick, etc) for each new client

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

- 1) Careful attention should be paid when painting the areas near the eyes, especially on very young children and those unable to keep still.
- 2) Some individuals may have an allergic reaction to even the most pure and nontoxic colours. If the client shows any type of allergic reaction during the painting procedure (e.g. paleness, shortness of breath, difficulty in breathing, undue swelling, puffiness around the eyes) the painting session should be discontinued and emergency medical attention should be obtained.

HAND HYGIENE

All artists should be able to provide services with clean hands via one of the following methods:

- 1) A dedicated hand-washing station should be readily available for the artist(s).
 - This should include a minimum of running water, pump-style hand soap, paper towels and sanitary disposal of the waste water.
 - Hand washing stations can take the form of an installed, readily accessible sink or a temporary sink set up (as illustrated below).



- 2) Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are permitted as a method of hand hygiene when **all three** of the following conditions are met:
 - a) An appropriate hand washing station is located in reasonable proximity to the service area.
 - b) The artist's hands are not visibly soiled.
 - c) The artist is not doing skin invasive procedures.

NOTE: If gloves are worn they must be changed after each client service and must only be worn after hand hygiene is performed.

SAFE HANDLING OF BRUSHES, PENS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT

- 1) Only single-use & disposable applicators (e.g. cotton swabs, brushes and sponges) are appropriate for special event settings.

Rationale: Materials made of hair, foam, wood or sponge are uncleanable surfaces and cannot be cleaned and disinfected. Further, temporary event settings typically lack the necessary provisions for proper cleaning and disinfection of equipment.

- 2) Ideally, because the tips of pens and markers used for skin colouring are not cleanable, the pens would be discarded after each use or given to the client after each session.

NOTE: If this is not a realistic option, at a minimum the tips of the face painting pens and markers should be wiped with a disinfectant wipe after each client service.

- 3) The tips of any eye and lip pencils used should be cut off and then wiped with disinfectant after each service. Tips must also be cut off and wiped prior to re-sharpening.
- 4) Reusable stencils must be made of cleanable materials that can be wiped with a disinfectant wipe after each use. Stencils should be maintained in a visibly clean condition at the point of use.
- 5) Paper towels must be discarded after each use.

ARTIST AND CLIENT HYGIENE

- 1) The artist should perform hand hygiene before and after each face or body painting session. See *HAND HYGIENE*.
- 2) Face or body painting should only be done on clean, healthy and unbroken skin. Painting faces with severe acne or sunburns should be avoided.
- 3) If hair control is needed for clients, single-use hair control devices, such as hair elastics or head bands, must be used.
- 4) Given that some events occur in outdoor settings, it is encouraged that the operator has a supply of skin cleansing wipes (such as baby wipes) to clean of excessive dirt from a client's skin.

NOTE: Care must be taken to ensure that disinfectant wipes are not used directly on skin.

Acknowledgments

Health Canada – More than a pretty face

Capital Health – Face and Body Painting Guidelines

Calgary Health Region – Requirements for Personal Services at Special Events and Trade Shows

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

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