

Stylist – September 2019

## **Cleaning Your Footspa**

Quick – what is the most important tool in your salon?

If you answered your selection of combs, curlers or scissors, and the other tools of your art and trade, you're correct, of course. But if you answered "a screwdriver," you wouldn't be wrong, either.

That's because that screwdriver may come in handy when it's time to take apart and clean the removable parts of your whirlpool footspa, as required by the Board of Barbering of Cosmetology's regulations.

More than a decade ago, the Board created procedures for how each type of footspa must be cleaned and how frequently. They are detailed in Sections 980.1, 980.2 and 980.3 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) and demonstrated in Board-produced videos that can be found here: <http://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov/enforcement/videos.shtml>. These procedures were developed in order to protect consumers from outbreaks of mycobacteria. Two years ago, the Board began allowing the use of disposable plastic liners for foot basins or tubs. While using the liners may simplify the cleaning procedures, they do not eliminate them altogether. The procedures to use if you are using tub lines are detailed under Section 980.4 of the CCR.

Most commercial whirlpool footspas and air-jet basins, even the pipeless variety, have removable parts of some sort, usually screen covers and jets (Consult with the manufacturer of your pedicure chair, who should be able to tell you). Debris tends to collect there and simply scrubbing the sides of the basin is not enough to fully disinfect the equipment. You need to remove the parts and clean them as well. This needs to be done every day and at the end of every week, and recorded in the spa chair's cleaning log.

During an inspection, Board inspectors will usually ask the shop to remove the parts for inspection or remove them themselves — Board inspectors all carry screwdrivers and other tools for that purpose — if the licensee in charge doesn't know how. Not knowing how will get an inspector's attention. If the licensee doesn't know how, how can the footspa be clean?

A collection of debris is a sure sign that a pedicure station is not being cleaned properly. In extreme cases, it can lead to one of the more serious citations an inspector can issue: an immediate suspension of the establishment's license. In addition to fines of up to \$500 per station for footspa cleaning violations, the licensee will be placed on probation for a year and will need to take remedial training, as well as submit to other probation terms.

Clearly, that screwdriver is an important piece of salon equipment. Learn to use it everyday.