

Industry Bulletin – 11/1/2024 - Head Spas

As head spas are gaining popularity, the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology has prepared this Industry Bulletin to answer some common questions.

1. What are "head spas"?

"Head spas" are establishments specializing in "scalp facials" that offer services focused on scalp and hair health.

2. What services do head spas typically provide?

Head spas often provide:

- Cleansing, steaming, and exfoliation to remove buildup and oils
- Scalp massage to stimulate circulation and relieve tension
- Neck, shoulder, and facial massage for relaxation
- Hair masks for deep conditioning
- Shampooing and blow-drying hair

3. Are estheticians allowed to provide shampooing or blow-drying services?

No. While estheticians may perform facials and various scalp treatments, they are NOT licensed to provide shampooing or blow-drying services. These services must be performed by a licensed barber, cosmetologist, or hairstylist.

4. Why can't estheticians provide hair services?

The Barbering and Cosmetology Act defines scope of practice for barbers, cosmetologists, estheticians, and hairstylists, as outlined in the California Business and Professions Code, sections 7316 (a), (b), (c), and (h). A licensee must limit their practice and the services rendered to the public to only those areas for which they are licensed, as stated in California Business and Professions Code, section 7317.

5. Can a customer blow dry their own hair?

Yes, a customer can blow dry their own hair, however as stated above, an esthetician cannot shampoo or wash their hair first.