

Industry Bulletin - Lash and Brow Perming

Effective January 1, 2022, eyelash and eyebrow perming are within the scope of practice for estheticians, cosmetologists, and barbers. Licensees should ensure they are fully trained prior to performing these services to ensure the safety of the consumer. The Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (Board) cannot recommend specific training vendors or schools, but below are some best practices that any reputable company or school should be teaching and that licensees should keep in mind. The Board encourages licensees to discuss this service with their liability insurance carrier to ensure they meet requirements for coverage.

Eyelash and eyebrow perming are also known as “lash lifts” and “brow lamination.” These services involve applying specially formulated products to keep eyelashes and eyebrows lifted, straightened, smoothed and formed into a more desirable shape for approximately 4 to 6 weeks, following the natural lash and brow growth cycle.

Best Practices

- Wash your hands prior to providing any service and consider wearing gloves while providing eyelash and eyebrow perming services.
- Discuss the process, expectations, and aftercare with the consumer prior to the service.
- Perform a patch test per the manufacturer’s suggested protocols. Patch tests are typically performed 48-72 hours prior to the consumer’s appointment. Follow the manufacturer’s and insurer’s recommendations for this process and refer the consumer to their physician if any reaction should occur from the patch test or the actual service.
- Advise consumers to discontinue the use of retinol products around the eyes for 3-5 days prior to service to decrease the potential of skin irritation and sensitivity, especially for brow lamination services.
- Have sterilized water or saline solution readily available in case of an emergency situation that would require the consumer’s eyes to be flushed (if an eye wash station is not available).
- Confirm that the consumer has removed their contact lenses prior to the service.
- Remind the consumer to keep their eyes closed, avoid movement, talking, and other distractions during the service.
- Examine the consumer’s eye area for redness, swelling, irritation, recent permanent makeup, and other contraindications of the service as advised by the manufacturer and insurer. If present, do not perform the service.
- Gently remove all makeup, dirt, and oil prior to the service. Do not perform or use exfoliating ingredients or techniques prior to providing lash and brow perming services.
- Use product that is specifically formulated for eyelashes or eyebrows. Do not use perming solution used for the hair as this can cause blindness and damage to the eye area.
- Be sure to remove and neutralize all lash lifting and brow lamination product per the manufacturer’s suggested protocols.

As with any service, licensees are expected to follow all of the Board’s health and safety regulations. For these services in particular, the Board recommends licensees review sections 979, 981, 988, and 990 of Title 16, Division 9 of the California Code of Regulations.