

Unit 19: Apply and Maintain Nail Enhancements

Unit code:	A/601/4444
QCF Level 3:	BTEC National
Credit value:	15
Guided learning hours:	111

● Aim and purpose

This is a preparation for work unit, which is based on capability and knowledge. The unit is about the particular skills involved in preparing for and applying nail enhancements. The knowledge and skills gained in this unit includes the preparation for, application, maintenance and removal of UV gel, wraps and liquid and powder nail enhancement systems.

● Unit introduction

Nail enhancement services have become so popular over the last 10 years that specialist nail salons have opened everywhere. Nail technology is a lucrative business as the nature of the treatment requires regular maintenance, creating repeat business for nail bars.

This unit gives learners the knowledge, understanding and skills required for preparing for and providing nail enhancement services. Learners will be introduced to the underpinning theory of nail enhancements, including the chemical process involved, different natural nail shapes and relevant anatomy and physiology.

Learners will also study preparatory activities required for nail enhancement services, from setting up the work area to performing a client consultations to identifying treatment objectives. This will include carrying out skin and nail analyses and identifying contraindications to the treatment.

Learners are expected to communicate and behave in a professional manner throughout the delivery of this unit, in preparation for the world of work. Learners will develop skills in providing nail enhancement services, following health and safety practices and the Code of Practice for nail services. This will include the application, maintenance and removal of nail enhancements (UV gel, wraps and liquid and powder). On completion of this unit, learners will also be able to provide suitable aftercare advice to clients.

● Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit a learner should:

- 1 Be able to prepare for nail enhancements services
- 2 Be able to provide nail enhancement services.

Unit content

1 Be able to prepare for nail enhancements services

Preparation: of therapist (personal hygiene/presentation, protective attire); of client (protective attire, removal of jewellery); salon requirements

Preparation of work area: environmental conditions eg heating, lighting, ventilation, atmosphere; salon requirements

Client consultation: consultation techniques (questioning, visual, manual, reference to client records); treatment objectives; nail and skin analysis; contraindications eg thin peeling nails, tinea unguium, paronychia, allergies, severe eczema and psoriasis, bleeding, cuts and abrasions, bruising and swelling, recent scar tissue, severe onychophagy, recent injuries to the area; clear recommendations; client confidentiality

Products: acetone; non-acetone varnish remover; nail steriliser; cuticle oil; hand sanitiser; tips (resin, resin activator, adhesive); acrylics (acrylic powder, acrylic liquid, primer); gels (gels, gel activators, primer, adhesive); selection of nail polishes

Tools and equipment: brushes; nail forms; dappen dishes; fibreglass mesh; scissors; lint free manicure squares; workstation; lined waste bin with lid; plastic eye protection glasses; orange sticks; client record card; towels; lamp; cotton buds; bowls; tip cutters; coarse file; medium file; fine file; 4 sided buffer

Nail and skin conditions: nail conditions (soft, coarse, ridged, discoloured); skin conditions (pterygium, hangnails, dry cuticles, soft cuticles)

2 Be able to provide nail enhancement services

Communication and behaviour: professional manner; communication (speaking, listening, body language, written); behaviour eg polite, tactful, client rapport; awareness of limits of own authority/responsibility eg follow instructions

Health and safety working practices: sterilisation and sanitation methods; safe use of tools and equipment; Health and Safety at Work Act (HASAWA) 1974; The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at Work Regulations 1992; Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002; waste disposal; Code of Practice for nail services; material data sheets

Service: positioning of nail technician and client; use of products, tools and equipment to suit client; ways of adapting service to suit client; maintenance of nail enhancements (infill, rebalance, reposition of white tip product, replacement of overlay, repair of overlay); removal of nail enhancements (manual, chemical); complete new set; avoidance of contra-actions eg softening and damage to nail plate, product reactions, adhesion failure, fungal/bacterial infection; complete service to client's satisfaction; contra-actions and response; record and evaluate results (methods of evaluating results eg ask for client feedback)

Aftercare advice: homecare (ways of avoiding contra-actions, prolonging life of nail enhancements, damage avoidance); retail opportunities (products, future services including repeat treatments)

Nail enhancement systems: types (liquid and powder, UV gel, wraps); chemical process involved

Assessment and grading criteria

In order to pass this unit, the evidence that the learner presents for assessment needs to demonstrate that they can meet all the learning outcomes for the unit. The assessment criteria for a pass grade describe the level of achievement required to pass this unit.

Assessment and grading criteria		
To achieve a pass grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:	To achieve a merit grade the evidence must show that, in addition to the pass criteria, the learner is able to:	To achieve a distinction grade the evidence must show that, in addition to the pass and merit criteria, the learner is able to:
P1 prepare themselves, client and work area for nail enhancement services [TW5, SM3]		
P2 use suitable consultation techniques to identify treatment objective [IE1, IE2, IE5]	M1 explain preparation and pre-treatment activities for nail enhancement services	D1 evaluate pre-treatment preparations for nail enhancement services
P3 carry out nail and skin analysis [IE4, RL1]		
P4 provide clear recommendations to the client [EP2, EP4, EP5]		
P5 select products, tools and equipment to suit client treatment needs, skin types and nail conditions [SM3]		
P6 describe salon requirements for preparing themselves, the client and the work area	M2 explain salon requirements for preparing themselves, the client and work area	
P7 describe the environment conditions suitable for nail enhancement services [IE3]		
P8 describe different consultation techniques used to identify treatment objectives		
P9 explain the importance of carrying out a detailed nail and skin analysis		
P10 describe how to select products, tools and equipment to suit client treatment needs, skin and nail conditions	M3 explain how to select products, tools and equipment to suit client treatment needs, skin and nail conditions	

Assessment and grading criteria		
To achieve a pass grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:	To achieve a merit grade the evidence must show that, in addition to the pass criteria, the learner is able to:	To achieve a distinction grade the evidence must show that, in addition to the pass and merit criteria, the learner is able to:
P11 describe the different nail and skin conditions [IE5]		
P12 explain the contraindications that prevent or restrict manicure treatments [IE5]		
P13 communicate and behave in a professional manner [TW3, TW4, TW5, SM5, SM6, SM7]		
P14 follow health and safety working practices and industry Code of Practice for nail services [SM4]		
P15 position themselves and client correctly throughout the service		
P16 use products, tools, equipment and techniques to suit client's service needs, nail and skin conditions [SM3]	M4 use products, tools, equipment and techniques to suit three different clients' service needs, nail and skin conditions	
P17 complete the service to the satisfaction of the client [RL3]		
P18 record and evaluate the results of the treatment [RL3]		
P19 provide suitable aftercare advice [EP2, EP3, EP4, EP5]	M5 provide suitable aftercare advice to different clients	
P20 explain how to communicate and behave in a professional manner		
P21 describe health and safety working practices and industry Code of Practice for nail services		

Assessment and grading criteria		
To achieve a pass grade the evidence must show that the learner is able to:	To achieve a merit grade the evidence must show that, in addition to the pass criteria, the learner is able to:	To achieve a distinction grade the evidence must show that, in addition to the pass and merit criteria, the learner is able to:
P22 explain the importance of positioning themselves and the client correctly throughout the service		
P23 explain the importance of using products, tools, equipment and techniques to suit client's service needs, nail and skin conditions	M6 compare the suitability of selected products, tools and techniques to suit three clients' service needs, nail and skin conditions	D2 evaluate the suitability of products, tools and techniques used to suit three clients' service needs, nail and skin conditions
P24 describe how services can be adapted to suit client service needs, nail and skin conditions	M7 explain how services can be adapted to suit client service needs, nail and skin conditions	
P25 describe how to maintain and remove nail enhancements	M8 explain aftercare advice that should be provided.	M7 evaluate aftercare advice provided.
P26 state the contra-actions that may occur during and following service and how to respond		
P27 explain the importance of completing the service to the satisfaction of the client		
P28 explain the importance of completing the treatment records		
P29 describe the methods of evaluating the effectiveness of the treatment		
P30 describe the chemical process involved in the nail enhancement systems		
P31 describe the structure and functions of the nail and skin		
P32 describe the different natural nail shapes.		

PLTS: This summary references where applicable, in the square brackets, the elements of the personal, learning and thinking skills applicable in the pass criteria. It identifies opportunities for learners to demonstrate effective application of the referenced elements of the skills.

Key	IE – independent enquirers CT – creative thinkers	RL – reflective learners TW – team workers	SM – self-managers EP – effective participators
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Essential guidance for tutors

Delivery

This unit should be delivered in a Realistic Learning Environment (RLE), see *Annexe F*. The word 'client' relates to and peers and does not mean that treatments need to be carried out on paying clients or within commercial timescales.

This unit is intended to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills required for the preparation and application of nail enhancement services. Delivery of this unit should be mainly practical to engage and motivate learners. Tutors are advised to use a variety of teaching methods and aids when delivering the underpinning theory of this unit.

Tutors should introduce learners to nail enhancement services, including UV gel, wraps and liquid and powder nail enhancements. Learners must be taught how to prepare for and perform these nail enhancement services, while following health and safety practices. Learners should then be given the opportunity to practise the techniques.

Learners need to be taught how to carry out preparatory activities, such as preparing the work area, performing client consultations and selecting appropriate products, tools and equipment. It is essential that learners are able to create treatment plans suitable for the individual client. Ideally, learners should have an opportunity to practise on different clients with various nail shapes, so they can appreciate the different treatment objectives and ways of adapting techniques to suit individual clients.

In order to perform treatments safely, learners will need knowledge of the different contraindications which could prevent or restrict treatment and the contra-actions which may result.

Tutors must introduce learners to the theory associated with nail enhancement services, for example the chemical process involved, using a range of delivery methods such as lectures, seminars, group discussions and presentations. Tutors could explore the use of internet video clips, DVDs, trade publications, trade exhibitions and guest speakers to aid learners' understanding.

The importance of providing suitable aftercare advice should be stressed. Learners should be encouraged to take advantage of retail opportunities presented by giving aftercare advice, as part of the client care experience.

Learners are expected to communicate and behave in a professional manner throughout this unit. This is an essential skill that will serve learners well when they go into employment in the hair and beauty sector, where the client-hairdresser/therapist relationship is of paramount importance.

While learners are not expected to perform treatments within commercial timescales for assessment purposes, it is strongly recommended that learners intending to go onto employment within the industry are able to perform within commercial timescales to advance their employment prospects.

Outline learning plan

The outline learning plan has been included in this unit as guidance and can be used in conjunction with the programme of suggested assignments.

The outline learning plan demonstrates one way in planning the delivery and assessment of this unit.

Topic and suggested assignments/activities and/assessment
Tutor introduction to the unit.
Assignment 1: Nail Enhancement Services (P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P13, P14, P15, P16, P17, P18, P19, M4, M5). Tutor introduction to assignment brief.
Expected communication and behaviour. Health and safety practices, current and relevant legislation. Promotional opportunities to encourage clients to visit for nail enhancement services.
Nail and skin types and conditions. Respective client requirements and necessary adaptations (nail shapes, previous services).
Preparation procedures. Preparation of therapist, client and work area. Client consultation and treatment planning. Selection of products, tools and equipment.
Nail enhancement services – full demonstration by tutor, practise on peers, case studies. Treatment. Aftercare advice – designing a homecare leaflet for client following nail enhancement services. Practical workshops focusing on different themes each week, for example working cost effectively, commercial timings.
Anatomy and physiology, such as effects of treatments, and reflection on effects of nail enhancement services – use of diagrams/textbooks, case studies. Evaluating effects and benefits, reflective log by learners.
Assignment 2: Nail Enhancement Services Case Study (P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31, P32, M1, M2, M3, M6, M7, M8, D1, D2, D3). Tutor introduction to assignment brief.
Assignment workshop(s).
Tutor recap of unit, using games and quizzes as memory aids.

Assessment

The unit is assessed by the centre and will be subject to external verification by Edexcel.

Achievement of the assessment and grading criteria should be evidenced through contextualised, vocationally-related experiences, with tasks specifically designed with the assessment and grading criteria in mind.

The theoretical aspects of assessment for this unit can be achieved through learners completing centre-devised assignments, a portfolio of evidence or through adaptation of Edexcel assignments where available. Practical assessment criteria will require observation and completion of relevant documentary evidence by the assessor.

Assessment should be as holistic as possible, with assignments designed to cover multiple assessment criteria, even across units, where appropriate. Reference to grading criteria should be made in the assessment documentation, to ensure the criteria have been met.

P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P13, P14, P15, P16, P17, P18, P19, M4 and M5 require learners to prepare for and perform nail enhancement services safely. Learners need to perform treatments on three different clients and this must include UV gels, liquid and powder and wraps. Learners must also evidence using the maintenance and removal techniques listed in the unit content. This must be assessed via practical observation and evidenced with a signed witness testimony. Learners will be assessed on their communication and behaviour throughout the treatments. Learners must be aware of the limits of their authority and responsibility, for example when to refer clients for medical advice and not diagnose conditions.

Learners will be expected to carry out preparation procedures before treatments, for example performing client consultations and selecting appropriate products, tools and equipment. Learners will also need to carry out associated post-treatment procedures, including providing aftercare advice.

P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31, P32, M1, M2, M3, M6, M7, M8, D1, D2 and D3 assess the underpinning theory associated with nail enhancement services. These criteria can be assessed in a variety of ways. A recommended holistic method of assessment would be for learners to produce a report on nail enhancement services they have provided.

Alternatively, theoretical assessment and grading criteria can be assessed in the form of a short-answer paper, or a number of smaller assignments, such as the examples below:

- a nail enhancement services reference handbook for themselves/new starters (P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31, P32, M1, M2, M3, M7)
- a homecare leaflet for clients (P19, P25, P26, M5, M8)
- reflective logs and case studies (M6, D1, D2, D3)
- worksheets/annotated diagrams of anatomy and physiology (P31, P32).

It is essential that learners are given opportunities to achieve all the assessment and grading criteria through the assignments. Theoretical aspects of this unit, such as anatomy and physiology, lend themselves to cross-unit assessment.

It is recommended good practice for tutors to hold regular assignment workshops where learners bring in their assignment work and work on it, consulting with the tutor when necessary.

Signed witness testimonies and observation records must be retained for verification purposes.

Supplementary evidence in the form of photographs and consultation record cards could also be provided.

Programme of suggested assignments

The table below shows a programme of suggested assignments that cover the pass, merit and distinction criteria in the assessment and grading grid. This is for guidance and it is recommended that centres either write their own assignments or adapt any Edexcel assignments to meet local needs and resources.

Criteria covered	Assignment title	Scenario	Assessment method
P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P13, P14, P15, P16, P17, P18, P19, M4, M5	Nail Enhancement Services	Prepare for and provide nail enhancement services for three different clients, following health and safety practices. This must include: UV gel, powder and liquid, wraps.	Practical observation, with a signed witness testimony. Photographs as supplementary evidence marked and authenticated by the assessor.
P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31, P32, M1, M2, M3, M6, M7, M8, D1, D2, D3	Nail Enhancement Case Study	Produce a report reflecting on nail enhancement services and the treatments provided.	Written report marked and authenticated by the assessor. Photographs and diagrams as supplementary evidence marked and authenticated by the assessor.

Links to National Occupational Standards, other BTEC units, other BTEC qualifications and other relevant units and qualifications

This unit links to the following NOS: N6 Enhance and maintain nails using liquid and powder, and N8 Enhance and maintain nails using wraps. This unit forms part of the BTEC hair and beauty sector suite. This unit has particular links with the following unit titles in the hair and beauty suite:

Level 1	Level 2
Hand Care	Provide Manicure Treatments
	Provide Pedicure Treatments
	Provide Nail Art

Essential resources

Learners will need access to a salon environment that meets the requirements of a Realistic Learning Environment, as outlined in *Annexe F*. Learners will also require access to products, tools and equipment suitable for providing nail enhancement services.

Employer engagement and vocational contexts

Visit to nail exhibitions and competitions, where learners can observe demonstrations by professionals and explore a wide range of product, tools and equipment, would be beneficial.

Centres are encouraged to develop links with nail bars and also invite guest speakers and nail art technicians from the industry.

Indicative reading for learners

Textbooks

Cressy S – *Beauty Therapy Fact File 5th Edition* (Heinemann, 2010) ISBN 9780435451424

Jefford J – *The Art of Nails: A Comprehensive Style Guide to Nail Treatments and Nail Art* (Thomson Learning, 2005) ISBN 9781844801466

Jefford J and Swain A – *The Encyclopedia of Nails* (Thomson Learning, 2002) ISBN 9781861528360

Jefford J, Swain A and Marsh S – *Nail Artistry* (Thomson Learning, 2003) ISBN 9781861529442

Toselli L – *A Complete Guide to Manicure and Pedicure* (New Holland Publishers, 2005) ISBN 9781843308614

Journals and magazines

Guild Gazette (Guild of Professional Beauty Therapists)

Habia News (Seed Publishing Limited)

Professional Nails (International Nail Association)

Scratch Magazine (Seed Publishing Limited)

Websites

www.beautyguild.com

Guild of Professional Beauty Therapists

www.habia.org

Habia, the Standards Setting Body for the hair and beauty sector

www.professionalbeauty.co.uk

Professional Beauty

Delivery of personal, learning and thinking skills

The table below identifies the opportunities for personal, learning and thinking skills (PLTS) that have been included within the pass assessment criteria of this unit.

Skill	When learners are ...
Independent enquirers	<p>considering the influence of legislation relating to the provision of nail enhancements [IE5]</p> <p>supporting conclusions, describing the effects of nail enhancements [IE6]</p> <p>considering the contra-actions that may occur during and following treatments and how to respond, and the influence of different nail and skin types and conditions [IE5]</p> <p>exploring issues, describing the environmental conditions suitable for nail enhancements [IE3]</p> <p>identifying questions to answer, planning and carrying out research, considering feelings, using suitable consultation techniques to identify objectives [IE1, IE2, IE5]</p> <p>analysing and evaluating relevant tests [IE4]</p>
Team workers	<p>adapting behaviour, showing consideration to others and showing confidence in themselves, communicating and behaving in a professional manner [TW3, TW4, TW5]</p> <p>taking responsibility for preparing themselves, the client and work area for nail enhancements [TW5]</p>
Reflective learners	<p>evaluating experiences, recording and evaluating the results of the treatment [RL5]</p> <p>acting on outcomes, completing the treatment to the satisfaction of the client [RL3]</p> <p>assessing nail analysis and relevant tests [RL1]</p>
Self-managers	<p>organising time and resources, using products, tools and techniques to suit nail enhancement, skin and nail types and conditions [SM3]</p> <p>anticipating and managing risks, following health and safety working practices [SM4]</p> <p>dealing with competing pressures, responding positively to change and managing their emotions, communicating and behaving in a professional manner [SM5, SM6, SM7]</p> <p>organising time and resources, selecting products and tools to suit nail enhancements needs, nail types and conditions [SM3]</p> <p>organising time and resources, preparing themselves, the client and work area for nail enhancements [SM3]</p>
Effective participators	<p>presenting a persuasive case for action, proposing practical ways forward, identifying improvements and trying to influence others when providing suitable aftercare advice and clear recommendations to clients. [EP2, EP3, EP4, EP5]</p>

Although PLTS are identified within this unit as an inherent part of the assessment criteria, there are further opportunities to develop a range of PLTS through various approaches to teaching and learning.

Skill	When learners are ...
Creative thinkers	generating ideas and exploring possibilities about the suitability of products, tools, equipment and techniques for different clients [CT1] asking the client questions as part of the consultation [CT2]
Self-managers	working towards being able to prepare for and perform the application and maintenance of nail enhancements for different clients, showing initiative, commitment and perseverance [SM2]
Effective participators	discussing issues of concern regarding contraindications with an appropriate person. [EP1]

● Functional Skills - Level 2

Skill	When learners are ...
ICT – finding and selecting information	
Use appropriate search techniques to locate and select relevant information	researching information from various sources eg CD ROMs and the internet
Select information from a variety of sources to meet requirements of a complex task	researching conditions which prevent or restrict nail enhancement service researching information relating to nail enhancements treatments
ICT – developing, presenting and communicating information	
Combine and present information in ways that are fit for purpose and audience	preparing a presentation selecting appropriate software
Mathematics – representing:	
Understand routine and non-routine problems in familiar and unfamiliar contexts and situations	preparing for nail enhancements treatments carrying out nail enhancements treatment following manufacturers' instruction when using products
Mathematics – analysing	
Apply a range of mathematics to find solutions	selecting a shape of nails selecting length of nails
Use appropriate checking procedures and evaluate their effectiveness at each stage	checking that shape and length of nail is to the client's satisfaction
Mathematics – interpreting	
Draw conclusions and provide mathematical justifications	evaluating the results of the treatments
English – Speaking, Listening and Communication	
Make a range of contributions to discussions in a range of contexts, including those that are unfamiliar, and make effective presentations	communicating with 'client', peers and tutors carrying out a skin and nail analysis providing client with aftercare advice following a nail enhancement service explaining how to maintain and remove nail enhancements giving a verbal presentation.