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## Professionals share indicators of quality nail salons

(Statewide) Jan. 24, 2006 - Two people say they contracted infections after getting a pedicure in Charleston and Spartanburg. Now the Department of Health and Environmental Control is trying to raise the public's awareness about salons.

There are some things you can look for so your beauty treatment doesn't get ugly.

Jeannie Ricard of the Elante Day Spa in Lexington showed WIS how things should be done. She says the tub should be sprayed with sanitizer, scrubbed, rinsed and dried. Ricard tells News 10 about her yardstick for judging cleanliness, "When I put water in a pedicure tub, if I wouldn't put my feet in it, there's no sense in a client having their feet in it."

The technician should use fresh towels and sanitized instruments. Items that can't be sanitized should be thrown away after one use. That's what's most important to customer Dot Williams, "The equipment she uses on me has not been used on someone else."

Because bacteria builds up in the drain of the whirlpool bath, make sure the salon cleans behind the drain every day.

And don't think the nicer the salon, the lower the risk. Eddie Jones is a state inspector, "It could be a top-notch salon, and if they're not sanitizing, it could happen to them as well."

When an inspector comes to a salon, they have a staffer open the cover of the tub to see what's inside, and swab for bacteria. If it's bad enough, they can stop the place from doing pedicures.

Jones says it's a real danger, "You could lose a limb if it's really that bad." He says that could happen "if the infection sets in and is not treated, you could get into that particular state."

A severe pedicure infection can resist antibiotics and require months of treatment.

So if you have doubts about how the salon cleans, ask. According to Jones, the answers, or lack thereof, could be a reason to walk, "If for some reason there is a professional person who balks at any question a client asks, the client needs to walk out the door."

In preparation for a pedicure, don't shave your legs, because a cut on your skin is an open door to infection. When nail tools are used on a skin break, they can transfer bacteria from one customer to another, if the tools are not properly sterilized between appointments.

**Reported by [Jennifer Miskewicz](#)**

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