

Top Tips for Safer Styling

Due to poor regulation and racialized beauty standards, hair stylists are overexposed to toxic chemicals in the professional salon products they work with every day.





TIP NO. 1

Know your worth and own your awesome work!

You deserve to be able to do your job without worrying that the ingredients in the products you work with might be making you sick! You help make people feel pampered and joyous, so you deserve to feel the same way. Know this and own this.

TIP NO. 2

Invest in yourself by investing in personal protective equipment

You shouldn't have to spend your hard earned money on personal protective equipment, but doing so is an investment in your health. Your salon grade products should be better regulated for chemicals of concern, but before policy catches up, investing in PPE like masks, gloves, and ventilation is more affordable in the long run than experiencing a possible health complication. If you are self-employed, ask your tax advisor about PPE and potential tax deductions. If you aren't self-employed, consider asking management if they can provide or subsidize PPE. Check out OSHA and your local Public Health Department for



TIP NO. 3

Switch to products that are better for you and your clients

If you own your salon, try making a list of every product you use, reviewing the ingredients, and reading each product's safety data sheet. Safety data sheets might not tell the whole truth, so check ingredients for safety using safecosmetics.org or Skin Deep. Consider eliminating or replacing the worst offenders. If you don't own your salon or have full control of the products you use, you could provide recommendations to the salon owner for safer and cleaner products.

TIP NO. 4

Consider limiting the services you offer based on toxic exposure

There are certain hair treatments that currently don't have safer alternatives (ex. relaxers and chemical hair straightening products), so consider limiting the services you offer to only those that allow you to use safer products and better protect yourself. Work with your clients to understand what services are the most important to them and what they wouldn't mind you discontinuing. Foster an environment supportive of natural hair styles and fewer chemical treatments.

TIP NO. 5

Stay informed & lean on us



You're the expert in your industry, but we are here to help provide resources to make your

Job easier. Lean on research from trusted sources like Black Women for Wellness, Breast Cancer Prevention Partners' Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, EWG Skin Deep, Clearya, and Women's Voices for the Earth. We're here to support you and to help minimize your risk and exposure to toxic chemicals. Through advocacy, we can get complete salon product ingredient disclosure and safe, green chemistry cosmetic alternatives. Together, we can bring about the change beauty professionals need and deserve!







www.safecosmetics.org/blackbeauty