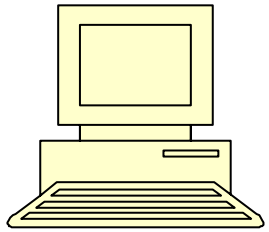
More on Safety

We encourage practitioners to review additional information of safety requirements at www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure select "Cosmetology" and "News & Events"

For a current copy of regulations select "Laws and Rules"

The Iowa Board of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences protects Iowa consumers by setting, communicating and enforcing uniform regulatory standards.

The Board of Cosmetology consists of five licensed practitioners and two public members. The Board helps to set educational and professional scope of practice standards.



Find it online!

- **Renew your License**
- **Update your address**
- **Download forms, publications**
- **And more**

Iowa Board of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences

Bureau of Professional Licensure

321 E 12th St

Des Moines, IA 50319

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www.idph.state.ia.us/licensure

Board of Cosmetology

STAY AWAY FROM MMA

NAIL TECHNOLOGY

Vietnamese translation available online

Stay Away from MMA

Methyl methacrylate monomer (MMA), when used in cosmetic fingernail preparations, is **"…a poisonous and deleterious substance."**

So states the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). By the end of the 1970s, the FDA received so many complaints related to the use of MMA that it was forced to take legal action against several manufacturers.

Using MMA is **PROHIBITED** in Iowa.

Let's Stay Safe!

We hope this brochure clarifies any lingering questions regarding the use of MMA. The bottom line (besides beautiful nails, of course!) is the health and safety of both clients and practitioners.

If you have any questions that this brochure doesn't answer, just ask!

Call (515) 281-4416

E-mail ebaird@idph.state.ia.us

Dangers of MMA

MMA-related complaints have ranged from adverse skin reactions to permanent loss of the nail plate. It can also cause loss of sensation in the fingertips.

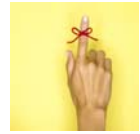
Once referred to as "dental acrylics" or "porcelain nails," MMA products create enhancements that are too rigid for the natural nail plate. MMA enhancements resist breaking if accidentally caught or jammed. This may lead to painful breakage of the nail plate and infection.

MMA Warning Signs

Unusually strong or strange odor

Artificial nails that are difficult to file or that will not soak off in solvents

For Licensees



Examine product labels to check that the product contains safe formulations.

(see **Acrylic Confusion?** below). Labels on products with MMA probably won't reveal MMA as an ingredient because it's **PROHIBITED** in many states and countries, **including Iowa.**

Acrylic Confusion?

The different types – or formulations – of acrylic nail products may confuse both practitioners and clients. Products containing solid *polymerized* MMA (PMMA) are safe to use.

The polymer in PMMA is much larger than MMA, so PMMA cannot penetrate the skin.

Most Manufacturers now formulate liquid products with liquid *ethyl* methacrylate (EMA), which is also safe to use.

Ouch! Financial damages also a good reason not to use MMA

From December 2001 issue of NAILS magazine:

What You Don't Know Can Hurt You
A jury in Roanoke, Va., didn't care that the owners of a nail salon said they didn't know they were using MMA and slapped them with a $150,000 judgment.