



RISK LEVEL  
**Max**

**If your nail salon does not sterilize or disinfect their equipment AT ALL, then you are at risk. Why?**

When you get a manicure or pedicure, the nail salon technician pushes back your cuticles and cuts off your dead skin. You might as well be wearing the shoes of every other woman who's been there that day.



RISK LEVEL  
**High**

**If your nail salon uses a sterilizer, but it looks like one of these white, plastic toasters, you are at risk. Why?**

Unfortunately, many nail salons have what they think is a sterilizer, but really might as well be a toaster. These "plastic toasters" are officially called a "UV Sterilizer" which uses Ultra-Violet rays to TRY to kill bacteria. This does not work, and is absolutely not approved by the FDA for actual sterilization.



RISK LEVEL  
**Medium**

**If your nail salon does not use a sterilizer, but DOES use disinfectant, then you are at risk. Why?**

The problem with disinfectant is that it will *disinfect* the tools, but not *sterilize* the tools. This means that while it will be effective on certain bacteria, it won't kill as much bacteria as sterilizers can.

Additionally, there's another risk of the disinfectant not being used properly, or not choosing the correct disinfectant.



RISK LEVEL  
**Low**

**If your nail salon uses a sterilizer that looks like one of these metal toasters, you may still be at risk. Why?**

These metal toasters are known as "Dry Heat Sterilizers" and they ARE able to kill all the bacteria on the tools. The main issue with these sterilizers is that the tools must be kept in the sterilizer for 90 minutes in order to be sterilized, or else the bacteria won't be killed.

Also, they're able to be stopped mid-cycle. Those two features combined lead to the potential situation where a technician takes the tools out of the sterilizer too soon because she has clients and no tools to use yet.



RISK LEVEL  
**Safe**

**If your nail salon has a steam sterilizer, then your safety level is high. Why?**

There are many different steam sterilizers to choose from, and they range in price as well as quality. But when it comes to the right sterilizer for a nail salon, the shorter the cycle, the better.

There are some that have very fast cycles but may cost more than most nail salons want to spend. If your nail salon has a sterilizer that looks like the one on the right, you know they've done their homework. It is only a 30 minute cycle, and is much more affordable than many other steam sterilizers.

