



Two Carolinians contract infections from pedicures

(Statewide) Jan. 23, 2006 - Infections from pedicures have been a nasty problem in salons across the country.

In California, more than 150 customers came away with more than pretty toenails. They contracted an infection.

Recently, two customers in South Carolina got a skin infection from whirlpool pedicures. That prompted the Department of Health and Environmental Control to alert all salons, reminding them to sanitize.

Experts are advising salons to clean areas like the drains frequently. That's where hair can build up, creating a bath of bacteria.

An infection might not show up for weeks, and sometimes it's hard for doctors to diagnosis. Treating the problem requires strong antibiotics.

In order to stay safe, and get that perfect pedicure:

- Check to see if the salon has a license issued by the state board.
- Don't shave your legs before a pedicure. Even small cuts can increase the chances of catching the bacteria.
- If the salon appears even the slightest bit dirty, leave, because you don't know whose hands you're putting your feet into.

DHEC says the two incidents occurred in Spartanburg and Charleston. The Board of Cosmetology ordered both businesses to immediately stop using the footbaths where the mycobacteria was discovered.

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