

Fitting out your salon

Once you have found your business premises the next step is to create the salon you want using a salon design, fixtures and fittings that reflect the image you wish to portray.

It is important to consider:

How much it will cost: Get several quotes and use well established shop fitters who have experience in this type of work. If they have fitted out a salon before visit the premises to see the finished result. Try and use one company for all jobs; conversion, plastering, electrician, plumber, decorator etc. It will be cheaper than employing different tradesmen and hopefully you are going to have less problems occurring.

The design and layout: The experts you are using may employ their own in house designer, if not you may need to source an architect or a design expert. Work closely with the designer to ensure you have the salon you want, computer generated images are an ideal way to see the finished result and enable you to make changes until you are satisfied.

Consider the size of the rooms to accommodate the treatments provided, a comfortable waiting area and reception with enough space for retail.

Check that you have sufficient electrical sockets and in the right places to work efficiently. Have adjustable light switches that can be altered to suit the mood and activity. Have volume controls in each room to vary the level of music played.

Make sure there is sufficient plumbing in each beauty room to accommodate a sink or shower.

Consider soundproofing rooms particularly if the salon forms part of another business such as a hair salon.

Make sure that you have sufficient heating and air conditioning so the rooms are warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Make sure the flooring is appropriate for the treatment area consider where carpet, tiles, or other coverings are most appropriate for hygiene, safety and client comfort.

Make sure toilet facilities are within easy reach of the treatment rooms so that clients don't have to walk through public areas unnecessarily.

Planning permission: It is important to ensure you understand the planning permissions, disabled access required and fire regulations before you start building or converting, or use a builder or architect who has experience in these fields. Make sure you have council approval for any signs you may have. Make sure you have the necessary licences, to open a salon, carry out certain treatments or even to play music

susancressy

spa & beauty therapy in practice

How long it will take: Agree on a schedule of work and use a solicitor to draw up a legal document to agree deadlines and penalties for not completing on time. If you plan on opening on a specific day and the builders are delayed for any reason it could prove costly to you particularly if you are paying staff wages.