

W – Z

Warm wax – or cool wax is a depilatory wax with a low melting point. It is made from paraffin wax, mixed with other substances, rubber latex solution, solvents or organic honey. There are some waxes that may be used cold in the form of strips impregnated with wax and available for use by the client at home.

Wart – is a benign or harmless growth on the skin caused by a virus, specifically the human papillomavirus (HPV). Warts are areas of skin that grow faster than normal, they are skin coloured, feel rough to the touch and are most common on the hands, feet and face. There are several types of wart, verruca vulgaris or common wart, mostly found on hands and knees, verruca plana a flat tan or flesh coloured wart, sometimes occurring in large numbers on the face, neck, hands, wrists and knees, verruca filiform a thread like wart most common on the face and neck and verruca pedis or plantar wart, found on pressure points on the soles of the feet ,

Waste material – used and unwanted consumables or by products from performing, face and body treatments or from other procedures such as sanitising, must be disposed of safely and hygienically. Normal waste should be placed in a plastic lined bin with a lid, broken glass and used needles and other sharp objects must be placed in a 'Sharp's' box and contaminated waste must be placed in a yellow plastic lined bin for removal by a licensed waste disposal company

Water testing kit – a set of equipment used to test the cleanliness of the water in a spa or swimming pool, helping to promote a healthy and safe environment for bathers. It allows the operator to test for free and combined chlorine and the alkalinity of the water

Watery eyes – also known as epiphora, an overflow of tears due to excessive secretion from the lacrimal or tear glands

Watt – unit of electrical strength the power is equal to one joule per second, a household light bulb uses 40 – 100 watts. Watts = volts x amps

Wavelength – the distance between repeating units of a wave pattern that transfers energy from one point to another e.g. electromagnetic waves and electrical current

Wax – traditionally a substance secreted by bees called beeswax, it may be natural or artificial. There are several forms of wax with properties similar to beeswax and these are; paraffin a petroleum wax and carnauba a vegetable wax. Wax is used to make candles, in depilatory wax, in makeup and face masks.

Wax heater – a thermostatically controlled container for depilatory wax

Waxing strips – muslin or paper strips used to remove warm depilatory wax that has been applied to the skin to remove superfluous hair

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Weaknesses – personal defects or failings.

White blood cells – they are an important part of the immune system, also called leucocytes they are a component of blood, produced in the bone marrow they help defend the body against disease.

White skin – this skin produces smaller amounts of melanin, some are very pale with freckles and often accompanied by blonde or red hair and blue or green eyes. There is a higher risk of sunburn and the formation of skin cancer because of the reduced protection from a lack of melanin in the skin. Some white skins tan more easily and are less sensitive such as Scandinavian skins that although pale develop a tan in the summer months without burning. In general white skins age faster than black skins and require more protection from the environment and the sun's rays.

Whitlow – an infection which occurs at the side or base of the nail. The medical term is paronychia.

Witch hazel – an astringent used to tighten the pores, cool the skin, remove surface oil and cosmetic preparations and as an ingredient in a face mask

Woods light – a lamp emitting long wave UVA and used to examine the skin.

Working capital – the difference between current assets and current liabilities and is the money readily available for day to day business expenses.

Working practices – the agreed method of performing treatments, tasks and other duties in relation to a particular job

Working temperature – the optimum temperature at which a thermostatically controlled piece of equipment works most effectively. Or, the ideal temperature in which to work, Health and Safety regulations set an enforceable minimum working temperature of 13°C – 16°C, there is no maximum working temperature however, the approved code of practice states 'that all reasonable steps should be taken to achieve a comfortable working temperature', this may be taken to include the provision of suitable fans or air conditioning.

Workplace policy – a statement to guide decisions and actions and form the basis of workplace rules. A salon owner will state their policy in relation to health and safety, using hazardous substances, emergency procedures, personal presentation and smoking, eating and drinking in the salon, then provide the employees with a list of rules in relation to these policies. These rules provide a guideline that helps the employee conform to the company policies. Other policies may be introduced, such as, dealing with returns and refunds, or customer complaints, employee lateness and absence, or confidentiality.

Wringing – a massage manipulation which involves compressing tissue between the thumbs and index fingers of the hands and then wringing it from side to side, working along the length of the muscle. It increases circulation, warms the skin and relaxes the client.

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Wrinkles – fine surface lines or deep furrows in the skin that appear on sun exposed areas of the body and increase with age. The main causes are; age as collagen and elastin break down, the moisture levels in the skin decrease, habitual facial expressions, gravity and damage from the environment and UV radiation.

X

Xanthoma – a yellow coloured skin lesion which is associated with disorders of fat metabolism and high levels of cholesterol in the blood.

Z

Zinc - trace element with anti-irritant and antioxidant effects

Zygomatic bone – the cheekbone