

Ask Leslie

Keeping it Clean in the Salon—an expert answers your sanitation questions.



Leslie Roste, RN, comes to the world of cosmetology from a long background in health care and infection control. Her education in nursing and microbiology made her a perfect fit to join the team at King

Research, the manufacturers of Barbicide—the leaders in salon disinfection. Here, Leslie helps Barbicide in the company's mission to promote proper infection control procedures by answering the most commonly asked questions from salon pros.

Dear Leslie,

I use Barbicide to soak my combs and shears—is there a limit to how many items I can have in the jar? How long do they have to soak—can I leave them in for too long?

Sue - Memphis, TN



Sue, Glad you are using Barbicide! There is no limit to the number of items you can put in your jar, however, make sure they are all cleaned before going into the jar and that the solution is changed daily! If, at anytime during the day, you notice your Barbicide appears contaminated, it should get an additional change. It is essential that items remain fully submerged for 10 full minutes (contact time) to be effective against the infectious agents it is intended to kill. Leaving items in the solution should not harm them, unless you are using Barbicide Plus (Tuberculocidal).

Dear Leslie,

Our state recently passed a law that requires us to use a tuberculocidal disinfectant—I am confused—what is the difference?

James - Des Moines, IA

James, Some states require tuberculocidal disinfectants and they have some significant differences from non-tuberculocidal, but chiefly, they are effective against TB (Tuberculosis). Make sure you understand the regulations of your state that may allow you to use Barbicide, but just have Barbicide Plus available in case of a blood spill. However, anytime you use Barbicide Plus you must be aware of two things. First, the primary difference between Barbicide and Barbicide Plus is the mixing ratio—for Barbicide you mix 2 ounces of concentrate with 32 ounces of water, Barbicide Plus requires one ounce of concentrate per gallon of water. Second, plastics left in Barbicide Plus for several hours can be damaged, so 10 minutes and out!

Dear Leslie,

I love using Barbicide, it makes me feel like I have really gotten my items completely disinfected. Is there a way I can use it on a surface?

Maddie - New Jersey

Maddie, Great question! Barbicide offers both spray bottle options and Barbicide wipes to make surface disinfection simple and fast! Remember when using the spray Barbicide, it is important to use the EPA labeled bottle and maintain the 10 minute contact time. That is, the surface being disinfected must stay wet with disinfectant for 10 minutes before drying or wiping. When using a Barbicide wipe, it is even more convenient as that contact time is cut to 2 minutes!

Dear Leslie,

I use my Barbicide for everything, but yesterday, I used it on my mirror and the result wasn't great! I thought I was supposed to use it on my mirror... maybe I was wrong.

Sam - Kansas City

Sam, While I support the use of Barbicide almost everywhere, it is not intended or necessary for some surfaces. Keep in mind that Barbicide is a surface disinfectant and some surfaces simply need cleaning—a mirror would be a perfect example. For general cleaning, I suggest Ship Shape Professional Surface cleaner. Made to remove hair spray residue from appliances such as flat irons and curling irons, it also leaves mirrors, windows and stainless steel glistening.

If you have any questions for Leslie, please e-mail her at lroste@barbicide.com.

General JCPenney Disinfection Guidelines:

BARBICIDE SOLUTION

- ✓ Dilute Barbicide or Barbicide Plus according to directions on the label.
- ✓ Container should be labeled to indicate it contains Barbicide or Barbicide Plus.
- ✓ Barbicide solution should be changed daily.

TO CLEAN AND DISINFECT TOOLS (brushes, combs, clips, clipper blades, shears, razors, nail implements, washable nail files, etc.)

- ✓ Clean and remove all visible debris.
- ✓ Scrub tools with warm water and soap or detergent such as Ship-Shape Comb and Brush Cleaner from King Research.
- ✓ Rinse thoroughly and pat dry with a towel.
- ✓ Fully immerse and soak in Barbicide solution for 10 minutes to disinfect.
- ✓ Rinse and pat dry with a towel.
- ✓ Store in "Clean" storage container.