



## **PATCH TESTING & TINTING POLICY**

Every HD Brows Stylist is taught how to safely perform HD Brows treatments during their course and should be referring to their training documents regularly to ensure that they are always following the correct risk management protocols for their customers. However, we understand that over time manuals may be misplaced, and bad habits picked up, so here's our standard patch testing & tinting policy, readily available for you to check at any time, live from the Marketing Hub.

We have worked together with our manufacturers, top insurance companies, and the EU Cosmetics Commission to create this policy based on industry best standards, and regularly ensure that our guidance is updated so that you, and your customers, are protected.

### **TINT PATCH TESTING**

**IT IS MANDATORY FOR A HD BROWS PATCH TEST TO BE CARRIED OUT ON EVERY CLIENT, 48 HOURS BEFORE EVERY TREATMENT.**

#### **How do I use the patch test?**

The patch test works like a temporary tattoo, simply remove from the packaging, peel off the clear plastic film and place the ink side down onto the inner forearm. Wet the back of the test and press until the test slides away from the arm, leaving the transfer behind. Full instructions are provided for the customer within the patch test leaflet. At the appointment, check the patch test for signs of a reaction and remove using the wax when testing the heat on the client.

#### **What does the patch test do?**

The HD Brows patch test is the only practical aid used to identify potential hypersensitivity to our branded tints. This patch test delivers a small amount of **PPD and Resorcinol** to the surface of the skin. A reaction should occur within 48 hours if sensitivity is present, if you suspect a reaction has occurred, the patch test must be immediately removed (using sticky tape) and medical advice sought. Even if only a slight reaction occurs, you must not tint the client.

#### **Is the tint patch test 100% guaranteed to identify an allergy?**

No, even if you have a negative result to the patch test this is **no guarantee** that a reaction will not occur during or after the treatment, that is an informed risk that customers choose to take when undergoing the HD Brows treatment. The HD Brows patch test checks for sensitivity to PPD and Resorcinol only, it will not identify customers who are sensitive to any other ingredients found in tints and dyes.

#### **Some of the patch test has come off before the treatment, will it still work?**

Although customers must not remove or wash off the patch test before their treatment (unless a reaction occurs), small amounts of fracturing (when sections of the test flake away from the skin) during the 48 hour period is normal. The PPD should still be absorbed by the skin,



therefore not skewing the results. If most of the test has fractured or if there is any doubt that the test has not worked, you should skip the tint for that treatment and test again 48 hours before their next treatment.

#### **Why do we have to patch test before every treatment?**

Many extraneous factors can affect the customer's sensitivity to tint and this is likely to change between each appointment (typically treatments take place every 6-8 weeks). **Never waiver or skip the patch test**, HD Brows® Stylists are accountable as trained professionals and waivers rarely hold up should a reaction and liability claim incur. Some insurance policies vary but most will state that the manufacturers guidelines of use must be followed, which mirror the HD Brows Patch Testing Policy.

#### **My customer has had an allergic reaction to other tints/ dyes/ henna previously, should they be tested to see if they can have the HD Brows tint?**

NO! Never patch test or tint any client who has experienced any kind of allergy to tint, dye or henna previously, ever. If they have ever been exposed to Black Henna in the past, they must also never be patch test or tinted due to Black Henna containing such large amounts of PPD that they're likely to react with further exposure.

#### **Can I re-dye my customer's brows in-between treatments and would they need another patch test?**

You should always patch test 48 hours before tinting, however, our manufacturer's guidelines for use of the HD Brows Dye prohibit re-dyeing of the brows until a minimum of 4 weeks has passed. This is to prevent over-exposure and minimize the risk of reactions for the customer.

#### **My insurance policy states that I must apply the patch test myself but my customers can't always make it to the salon 48 hours before their treatments, what can I do?**

Only some insurance providers stipulate that the Stylist must apply the patch test to clients instead of them completing this step at home before they attend their appointment. This means that you can switch to an alternative insurance provider should this become an inconvenience to you and your clients. We recommend Holistic Insurance Services who work with us to ensure that their cover is adapted to match the HD Brows manufacturer's guidelines. In the meantime, if a client is unable to visit you to have their patch test applied, they can still have the treatment but you will have to skip the tint step for that treatment.

### **WAX PATCH TESTING**

#### **WAX HEAT TEST: *Mandatory***

Stylists must always check the heat of the wax on themselves and then on the customer's inner wrist during their treatment and before application to the brows, to ensure the correct temperature has been reached. **This test cannot be skipped.**



**WAX PATCH TEST:** *Elective*

In 2015 some insurers introduced a further 'wax patch test' policy, to protect sensitive clients. To ensure that all of our Stylists are fully covered we recommend the following:

**ALWAYS OFFER CLIENTS A WAX PATCH TEST BEFORE EVERY TREATMENT.** They may choose to decline this but don't worry, you can still wax them if they are happy to go ahead without this patch test. Simply tick or cross the applicable box on the Client Record Card before they sign it for that treatment.

**How do I perform the wax patch test?**

If your client is unsure, has never been waxed before, or would like a wax patch test for any reason, simply ask them to visit your salon prior to their appointment so that the Stylist can wax a small line of hair from their arm. If any kind of reaction occurs at the time, or within 24 hours of this test, it must be noted on their Client Record Card, advice sought from their GP or pharmacist, and the wax step skipped for this customer during all future appointments.

**Do my clients have to complete the wax patch test before every treatment?**

No, only **offering this test is essential** but unlike the tint and heat tests, this can be declined and the wax step still completed. Stylists are advised to check their individual insurance policy for further advice.