



# Water Damage Prevention at Tanning Salons

Washing machines are just one source of non-weather related water damage at tanning salons. Deteriorating water lines can burst without warning. Sewer lines can backup into the salon. Tanning spray apparatuses can leak. This bulletin offers risk management strategies for reducing the opportunity for preventable water damage incidents at tanning salons.

## Spray Booth Leaks

Spray booths require a continuous water supply creating the potential for water damage from a ruptured hose or faulty connection. Ruptures can happen at any time including the overnight hours when the salon is unattended. Prevent spray booth leaks by:

- **Spray Booth Location:** Booths should be positioned within a room containing a floor drain. Both the booth drain and room floor drains should be maintained clear of debris and obstructions at all times.
- **Inspections:** Implement a schedule to inspect the booth including hoses and connections for obvious damage and leaks. These checks should occur regularly throughout the day and before/after closing.
- **Train Employees:** Ensure that your salon employees are informed on how to promptly close off the water supply in the event of a leak.
- **Shut-offs:** Outfit booths with automatic shut-offs that cut the water supply to the booth when the salon closes for the day.

## Spray Gun Leaks

Spray guns can leak from the tip of the needle or from the needle packing nut. Spray gun leaks commonly occur when the needle packing nut is too tight, which compresses the needle packing too tightly around the needle. Spray gun leaks can also occur if the needle packing nut is too loose. These leaks can be fixed by checking the equipment regularly and by making as needed adjustments:

- Adjustments should be counter clockwise when your spray gun is leaking from the nozzle or clockwise when your spray gun is leaking from the needle packing nut. *Please Note: Adjustments to the needle packing nut should occur in very small increments.*
- Fix spray gun leaks by:
  1. Add water in the cup of your gun
  2. Dry the tip of the nozzle with a rag, and turn the needle packing nut counter clockwise.
  3. Pull the trigger and spray. Dry the tip of the nozzle with a rag again.
  4. If you continue to have a leak at the nozzle or needle packing nut, you repeat the steps above.
  5. The needle should stop leaking after a few adjustments.
- It is always a good idea to apply light coat of lubricant to the needle shaft where it passes through the needle packing nut and work it in and out by pulling the trigger back and forth.

## Sewage Back-ups

The water that backs up in a sewer line overflows toilets, floor drains and sinks. Even if the flow is minimal, sewer water is contaminated increasing the damaging effect to property regardless of the level of flow. Consider the following actions to reduce the opportunity for sewer backups:

- Engage a licensed plumber to inspect the lines at least annually. The goal is to identify and correct blockages before an overflow occurs.



- Prohibit items known to clog sewer lines from being disposed of in a toilet by:
  - Posting signs in the bathroom identifying which items are prohibited (e.g. paper towels, wet wipes, etc.)
  - Do not install paper towel dispensers in the bathrooms. Hand dryers may be a safer and more environmentally friendly option.
  - Implement a bathroom inspection and cleaning schedule, where an employee is held accountable for inspecting the bathroom at least hourly when open for business, and before opening and after closing each day.
- If a sewer back-up does occur:
  - Evacuate customers from the affected area right away to reduce the likelihood of a slip/fall incident and exposure to the contaminated waters.
  - Disconnect nearby equipment to reduce the chance of electrocution. If large areas of your building are affected, turn off electric and gas mains.
  - If the floor surface is not porous, wash everything down with a solution of 1/4 cup of chlorine bleach and 1 gallon of warm water. Always be careful to never mix different cleaning products. Ammonia and chlorine bleach for example are a deadly combination that produce very toxic gases.
  - If the overflow covers a large area or soaks porous materials like sheetrock, wood flooring and carpeting, you should call in a professional restoration contractor.

### **Water damage claims should be promptly reported!**

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