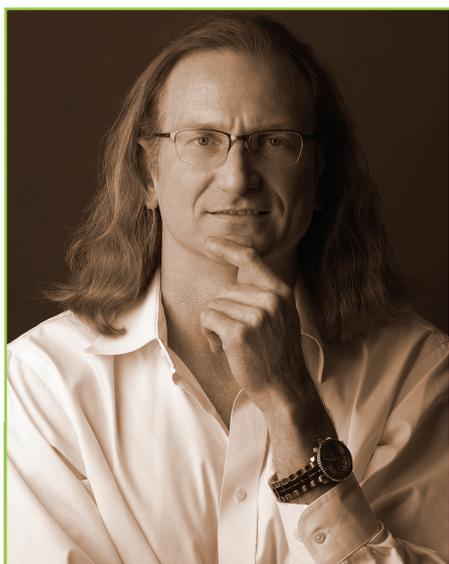


# THE SCI-FILES



## DOUG SCHOON

Doug Schoon is an internationally recognised scientist, author and educator with over 30 years' experience in the cosmetic, beauty and personal care industry. He is a leading industry authority known for his technical and regulatory work and is co-chair of the *Nail Manufacturers Council (NMC)*.

Doug was CND™'s chief scientist and head of the R&D laboratory, QA, and field testing/evaluation departments for almost 20 years and has authored several books, video and audio training programmes, as well as magazine articles about salon products, safety, and practices for salon professionals.

In 1986, Schoon founded *Chemical Awareness Training Service (CATS)* – the beauty industry's first safety training company. This was followed by his book, *Nail Structure & Product Chemistry*, 1st and 2nd editions, which have become essential reading for nail professionals. He runs *Face-to-Face with Doug Schoon*, an internet learning series that focuses on nails, nail products and services, and has taken this format to paper with the release of two books.

[www.schoonscientific.com](http://www.schoonscientific.com)

[f /DougSchoonsBrain](https://www.facebook.com/DougSchoonsBrain)

[t @DougSchoon](https://twitter.com/DougSchoon)

Watch Doug's internet series on nails, nail products and services at [www.faceofacewithdougshoon.com](http://www.faceofacewithdougshoon.com)

Globally renowned scientist and nail expert, **DOUG SCHOON**, explores the ideas and concerns surrounding nails, techniques and products

## WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO DO THAT?

**N**ail technicians often don't consider how they unintentionally put themselves and their clients at risk and jeopardise their business. Many don't fully recognise that they work with some of the most technologically advanced products in the entire beauty industry.

Nail coatings are based on high-tech ingredients used in many other industries to create products ranging from implantable bone cements, hearing aids, dentures, contact lenses, CD discs, bullet proof glass and even computer chips. These are among the most carefully studied ingredients on the planet, which helps explain why their properties are so well understood by scientists who use them to create products. These scientists have special training and knowledge that allows them to formulate products that are both safe and effective when properly used.

We all know that some nail techs love to 'experiment' with nail coating products and ignore a manufacturer's instructions. If nail products are used in a manner contrary to their intended use, problems can be created. When I explain how important it is to use nail coating products as directed or instructed, nail techs often will ask, 'Why should I have to?'. The answer is straightforward, as without deep understanding of chemistry and the science behind these products, disregarding instructions can create unintended consequences for both clients and nail technicians. Why is this so? Many products are formulated for use together as a system and applied in specific ways to ensure safe use and the best results.

### A few examples to consider:

Two-part systems that use monomer liquids are designed to be used with specific powders and at the correct ratio. Using the incorrect powder or using too little powder can lead to under-curing which can result in skin irritation and/or allergy. The same occurs when under-curing results from using the incorrect nail lamp with UV curing products. Hardening occurs when the UV gels are more than 50% cured, and this can fool users into thinking that the products are properly cured, when they are not.

Using lamps that over cure the coatings can cause onycholysis, a condition where the nail plate detaches from the nail bed. According to a survey from *The Guild of Beauty Therapists*, about 35% of nail technicians use a generic nail lamp, rather than the lamp recommended by the gel manufacturer. Doing so will likely invalidate professional insurance policies.

"According to a survey from The Guild of Beauty Therapists, about 35% of nail technicians use a generic nail lamp, rather than the lamp recommended by the gel manufacturer."

It is possible for these products to harm either clients or nail techs when used in a manner contrary to directions or instructions. It's an error for nail techs to believe that they can use professional products in any fashion they choose. Of course, I admire the curious, inquisitive nature of those who like to experiment with their products and recognise that their ingenuity and creativity are driving them to do this. These are great qualities that anyone can benefit from, but only if properly channelled. However, when experimenting means disregarding the manufacturer's instruction, directions or warnings, it is inappropriate and should not be done. **S**