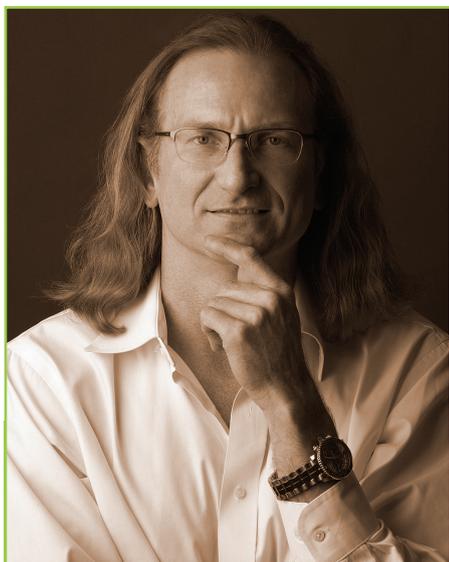


THE SCI-FILES



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 Edition, which has become essential reading for nail professionals. More recently, he has launched *Face-to-Face with Doug Schoon*, an internet learning series that focuses on nails, nail products and services.

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Watch Doug's internet series on nails, nail products and services at www.facetofacewithdoug schoon.com

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

COSMETICS & THEIR CLAIMS

Nail technicians are usually surprised when their clients develop infections while wearing a so-called 'anti-fungal UV gel'. Why didn't it work? In my view, there is no such thing as an anti-fungal UV gel and no cosmetic company should be making such claims.

Cosmetics are for beautification of the body or improving physical appearance. No cosmetic product can claim to prevent or cure infections. That is not a permitted cosmetic claim and this is true for most, if not all countries. It is certainly true in the US, European Union, Canada and Australia, to name a few. Products designed to prevent or cure infections are medical drugs or medications - not cosmetics. This is true for lotions, creams, sprays, gels - whatever form they come in.

In the European Union, a medicinal product is defined as: *'any substance or combination of substances presented as having properties for treating or preventing disease in human beings'*.

US regulations define a medical drug as: *'articles intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease (other than food)'*.

When a cosmetic product claims that it treats, cures, controls or prevents any type of infection, it ceases to be just a cosmetic product and is now a medical drug or medicinal product. It can no longer be properly sold as just a cosmetic product.

It is not likely that any cosmetic nail coating, including UV gel, can prevent

nail infections. Some may contain anti-fungal or anti-bacterial ingredients, but that only prevents the growth of these types of microorganisms inside the product container. In other words, they are only preservatives for the product and these are incapable of preventing nail infections.

To prevent nail infections in the salon, start by making sure your client's hands and fingernails are clean. All clients should wash their hands before every service. It's a myth that washing hands before a service causes lifting.

This is an important step that prevents the spread of infections in salons. There is no telling what the client has on their hands when they sit down at the table, so send them first to wash their hands and provide a clean and disinfected nail brush for each client. Instruct them to place the used brushes in a properly marked 'dirty brush' container so they are not accidentally reused before they can be cleaned and disinfected.

Hand sanitisers are useful when applied to clean hands, but they are not effective when hands are dirty, so don't use them as replacements for hand washing. It is important to clean and disinfect everything that comes in contact with a client's skin.

Finally, never perform services on clients with visible signs of infections of the skin or nails. Only a qualified medical professional can properly determine if a visible infection is active or not. If clients show symptoms of having a visible infection, it is best to refuse services until the symptoms disappear or a medical professional determines that their condition is not contagious. **S**

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