



BarberCosmo

The Board's highest priorities are protecting and educating consumers who use barbering, cosmetology, electrology, esthetic, and manicuring services.



# BarberCosmo

Board of Barbering & Cosmetology

The Board of Barbering and Cosmetology regulates barbering, cosmetology (including skin and nail care), and electrology services in California, as well as the establishments (salons, shops, studios, spas, etc.) where these services are performed.

The Board's highest priorities are protecting and educating consumers who use barbering, cosmetology, electrology, esthetic, and manicuring services.

Anyone who provides the following services to consumers for a fee must be licensed by the Board and work only in State-licensed shops:

- Hairdressing and styling.
- Haircutting.
- Shaving.
- Manicuring.
- Electrolysis.
- Skin care.

The Board also regulates health and safety and coursework in barber, cosmetology, and electrology schools. The Board does not regulate permanent cosmetics, body piercing, tattooing, body massage, aroma therapy, hair threading, hair braiding and the sale, fitting, or styling of wigs.

## COMPLAINTS

The Board receives and responds to more than 1,600 consumer and industry complaints each year. Each complaint is carefully reviewed to determine if the matter is within the jurisdiction of the Board and to determine possible violations of law.

Issues that should be reported to the Board include:

- Consumer harm, such as an infection, following a service.
- Unlicensed activity.
- Unsanitary conditions in an establishment.
- Misrepresentation or false advertising of services.
- Gross negligence and/or incompetence.

All complaints must be in writing and may be submitted online.

## INSPECTIONS

Board Inspectors visit shops to verify that licensees are following current health and safety laws and the Board's rules and regulations.

For more information

**BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY**  
2420 DEL PASO ROAD, SUITE 100  
SACRAMENTO CA 95834  
[www.barbercosmo.ca.gov](http://www.barbercosmo.ca.gov)  
800-952-5210



## Here's a look at the types of licenses issued by the Board

### ESTABLISHMENT

The Board licenses the salons and barbershops where barbering and cosmetology services are performed. You will need to apply for a new establishment license if you:

- Open a new shop.
- Take ownership of an existing shop.
- Move to a new location (even to a new suite number).
- Add or remove partners.

If you close your shop, you'll need to return your establishment license to the Board with a brief statement that you are closing your shop. Include the effective date.

**TIP:** When the Board inspects a shop, the owner(s) of the establishment will be issued a citation for all violations in the salon. Operators will be issued a citation if violations are found at his or her workstation.



### BARBER

Licensed barbers are trained in shaving or trimming the beard or cutting hair. Barbers are also trained in shampooing, styling, arranging, dressing, curling, waving, relaxing, or dyeing the hair and in applying cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, powders, oils, clays, or lotions to the scalp, face, or neck.

Certain services, such as shaving, can be performed only by barbers.

**TIP:** Barbers must disinfect electric clippers prior to each use.

### COSMETOLOGIST

Here are the services that cosmetologists are licensed to perform.

#### HAIR

Arranging, dressing, curling, waving, cleansing, cutting, shampooing, relaxing, singeing, bleaching, tinting, coloring, straightening, dyeing, and the beautifying the hair of any person.

#### HAIR REMOVAL

Removing superfluous hair using tweezers, chemicals, or devices/appliances of any kind, except light waves, commonly known as rays.

#### SKIN CARE

Massaging, cleaning, or stimulating the scalp, face, neck, arms, or upper part of the body (from the shoulders up), using the hands, devices, apparatus or appliances, with or without cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics,

lotions, or creams. Beautifying the face, neck, arms, or upper part of the body by using cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, or creams.

**TIP:** Massaging the entire body for a fee is not within the scope of the cosmetologist's license.

#### NAILS

Manicuring the nails, including cutting, trimming, polishing, tinting, coloring, cleansing, and the application of artificial nails. Massaging, cleansing, or beautifying the hands or feet.



### MANICURIST

Manicuring is the practice of cutting, trimming, polishing, and cleansing the nails. It also includes massaging, cleansing, or beautifying the hands and feet, and the application of artificial nails.

**TIP:** All manicuring instruments must be cleaned and disinfected before use on each client. All non-disinfectable items (e.g. cotton pads, sponges, emery boards, and neck strips) must be disposed of immediately after use. Licensees must wash their hands before serving each client.

### ESTHETICIAN

Esthetics is the practice of giving facials, applying makeup or eyelashes, hair removal (by tweezing or waxing), and providing skin care. It also includes beautifying the face, neck, arms, or upper part of the human body (from the shoulders up) by using cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, or creams.

Some services that estheticians **cannot** provide are:

- Skin piercing.
- Laser treatments.
- Giving medication.
- Removal of moles, skin tags, etc.

**TIP:** A person who demonstrates, recommends, or sells skin care products or cosmetics does not need to be licensed by the Board.

### ELECTROLOGIST

Electrolysis is the permanent removal of unwanted facial and/or body hair by use of a tiny needle or probe that conducts electric current.

Some services that electrologists cannot provide are:

- Using needles to cauterize spider veins.
- Laser treatments.
- Giving medication.

**TIP:** No other license types are permitted to perform electrolysis.