

The expected service times for cutting facial hair to shape

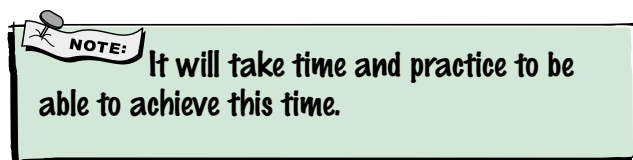
To prove that you are competent in your NVQ/SVQ you must be able to:

- accurately cut the facial hair to maintain its shape

.....and you must be able to carry out this service in a commercially acceptable time.

The maximum time that has been set by the NVQ/SVQ to trim a full beard is 15 minutes. To trim a moustache you are allowed 5 minutes.

This means that, for a full beard trim, from the time the client sits in the chair to the time when he stands up to leave, no more than 15 minutes may have passed.



It is important that you can work accurately at this speed in order to remain profitable to the salon – if you spend more time than this on each client it means:

- clients would be kept waiting
- fewer clients would be able to be booked in
- appointments would take longer
- less profits would be made by the shop
- the shop could lose money

.....a combination of all of the above could result in the loss of your job.

It is also important that the salon can plan and implement an efficient appointments or queuing system.

If you operate an appointments system (and many barber shops now do this) you must be able to allocate the correct time to each service so you must know how long to spend on each type of job.

If you work to a queuing system you must be able to inform a client of the time he will have to wait to have his facial hair cut to maintain its shape.

By operating these systems effectively you can offer a better service to clients by ensuring that they are not kept waiting or that they have the opportunity to decide whether to wait or to return at a less busy time. It also means that the salon can make best use of working time and other resources.

Your salon and legal requirements for disposal of waste materials

The Health & Safety at Work Act requires everyone in the workplace to work safely and they must be aware that others in the workplace (visitors, clients etc...) are also safe.

The aspects of health & safety for the disposal of waste materials includes the ways in which sharp objects and other waste from cutting facial hair are disposed of.

The **waste materials** that are produced while cutting facial hair to maintain its shape are:

- hair clippings
- used towels, gowns, capes
- used eye pads.

All hair clippings should be swept up as soon as the work is complete. These, along with used eye pads, should be placed in a lidded bin and collected as refuse in the normal way. All used gowns, towels and capes should be laundered for future use.

The type of used **sharps** that are produced while cutting facial hair to shape are:

- used razor blades.

All sharp objects must be placed in a special container that is designed for this purpose. It is called a sharps box.



Used blades must not be wrapped in paper, taped up then put into the bin, or disposed of in any other way other than to be placed into the sharps box.

All local Councils have the responsibility to collect and safely dispose of sharp objects. They contract with local businesses to supply sharps containers of varying sizes, according to the amount of sharps being used, and to dispose of them on behalf of the businesses. Each Council decides its own rate of charge for providing this service. Few hairdressing businesses generate large quantities of sharps and may only need to arrange for their disposal on infrequent occasions.

Very infrequently the barber will wish to dispose of old scissors, clipper blades or fixed blade razors and these should be disposed of in the same way as other sharps.

Electricity at Work Regulations

The purpose of these Regulations is to state that electrical equipment must be adequately maintained and checked by a qualified person. A written record of the equipment tests should be kept and should be made available for inspection.

It is important to visually check if the equipment is safe for use by checking the flex and the plug. The equipment should only be used for its intended purpose and you should make sure that you know how to use it.

When you have finished with the equipment, switch off, remove from the power source and store the equipment safely away.

It is your responsibility to ensure that any faulty equipment that you find in your workplace is removed from use, labelled as faulty and reported to a relevant person.

If you were unsure of how to use an electric clipper how would you find out the correct way to use it?

State the name of the person in your salon to whom you would report faulty electrical equipment.

The range of protective clothing and materials available for clients

You must make sure that the client's clothing is well protected before cutting facial hair to maintain its shape.

Protective clothing and materials used when cutting facial hair to shape are:

- towels
- gowns
- eye pads.

Ensure that all protective clothing and materials are securely placed and that the client is comfortable before proceeding to cut the facial hair.

Always make sure that you protect the client's eyes from short, sharp hairs that often fly into the air while the beard or moustache is being cut. This happens most often if the beard or moustache is very dense or coarse. It is also advisable to ensure your own safety by wearing safety glasses. This helps to prevent your eyes being damaged by these tiny pieces of hair.

In order to ensure the comfort of the client you should gently untangle a long beard before starting to cut it to maintain its shape and frequently brush away hair clippings from the face and neck during the process.

The importance of protecting clients from hair clippings

You must try to avoid cut hairs working their way down under the client's clothing and onto his skin.

When this happens the skin becomes irritated and the client will be uncomfortable. This is particularly important if the client has visited the salon during a break in his working day and will not have opportunity to change his clothing for some hours.

In some cases a client's skin will become inflamed due to the irritation caused by the hair clippings and by him scratching to try to relieve the irritation.

Summary: it is important to protect clients from hair clippings:

- to maintain client comfort throughout and following the service
- to protect the client's clothing
- to avoid damage to the client's eyes.

How the position of your client and yourself can affect the desired outcome and reduce fatigue and the risk of injury

If your client sits in a hunched or slouched position, or if you stand in the wrong place while cutting facial hair to maintain its shape, it will result in an uneven effect:

- when the client is incorrectly seated you will not be able to see or reach easily, you may have to crouch down to see and reach some parts of the beard
- if you stand on one side of the client and cut hair that grows on the other side of the face (or head, in the case of sideburns) the result will be uneven.

You must make sure that you stand correctly when cutting facial hair if you are to minimise the risk of becoming very tired, very quickly and possibly causing long term damage to your muscles. In addition, if your posture is correct, a better working position is achieved. This will help you to increase speed and become more effective.

You should stand with legs straight and feet slightly apart to maintain balance and even distribution of your weight. Try to remain relaxed, keep your head up and avoid stretching or bending. When you become tired you lose concentration. This causes you to become slower and less effective.

If you stand at one side of the client and try to cut the beard or moustache on the other side of his face it is very likely that you will leave one side slightly longer than the other. This is because you will not be able to see and reach well. The outlining of the shape will be unbalanced and the whole effect will be amateurish.

It is important to ensure that the client's position is correct. If he is not seated properly he may be uncomfortable and this may cause him to fidget and move around. This can result in an inaccurate effect. You must make sure that the chair is correctly positioned to ensure his comfort.

Discuss with your trainer and colleagues the reasons for standing in the correct position while cutting facial hair. Particularly, discuss the reasons for moving around the head while maintaining the shape of a beard or moustache.



The safety considerations which must be taken into account when cutting facial hair

You must follow the basic rules relating to safety when you cut facial hair to maintain its shape:

- make sure that your client is positioned comfortably
- ensure client's clothing is properly protected
- ensure prompt removal of hair cuttings from the floor and the client during the service
- dispose of all sharps in accordance with legal requirements and salon procedures
- protect the client's eyes
- protect your own eyes by wearing safety spectacles or goggles
- take care when handling cutting tools

State two reasons why you must take safety considerations into account when cutting facial hair.

Why it is important to avoid cross-infection and infestation

If effective measures are not taken to avoid cross-infection and infestation the reputation of the salon will suffer. The image of the salon will be damaged, probably permanently. Clients will not return to the salon, or recommend it to anyone else. Profits will be lost, and in turn, so will jobs. It is very important that the salon

operates to high standards of hygiene to ensure the risk of passing infection or infestation to clients is kept to a minimum.

Summary

The reasons why it is important to avoid cross-infection and infestation are:

- to minimise the risk of cross-infection and infestation
- to ensure the image and reputation of the salon is maintained.

What are the two main infections of which we, as barbers, must be conscious?

What is the most common infestation that barbers need to be aware of?

The importance of keeping your work area clean and tidy

As a professional barber it benefits both you and your salon to ensure good appearances are maintained. This applies to your work area as well as to your own appearance. If your work area is clean and tidy it will create a professional image of the salon and of yourself.

If your work area is untidy and dirty the client is likely to think that he is not going to get a good service.

A dirty work area allows bacteria to multiply and infections are likely to be spread from one client to another or between client and barber. You have a duty to provide a hygienic environment for clients and by so doing you will minimise the risk of spreading infection.

An untidy work area often contains hazards – loose, trailing wires, sharp cutting tools within easy reach, towels and gowns draping over chairs, etc. By keeping work areas tidy the hazards are reduced.

Summary

The reasons why work areas should be left clean and tidy are:

- to keep up a professional image of yourself and the salon
- to minimise the risk of passing infection from person to person
- to reduce hazards.

Whose responsibility is it to ensure that the work area is left clean and tidy?

Methods of working safely and hygienically

The Health & Safety at Work Act requires that all people work safely. This is to help prevent accidents. We also have a duty to our clients to provide a hygienic environment in which they can have barbering work done. This is to reduce the spread of disease.

Working safely and hygienically

You must ensure that you:

- use clean protective materials
- clean and sterilise tools
- use all tools with care
- remove hair cuttings from the client throughout the service
- sweep up all hair clipping from the floor at the end of the service
- keep work area clean and tidy throughout the service
- protect the client's eyes and your own eyes.

You should also ensure that you use tools only for their intended purpose and check the plug and flex of electrical equipment before use.

You should position the client for comfort and ease of working and make sure that you dispose of all waste according to local bye-laws and salon requirements.

By following the above guidelines you can help to ensure that you work safely and hygienically and that clients can have their hair done in a healthy, safe and hygienic salon.

Methods of sterilisation and their suitability for use in barber shops

There are three ways of sterilising tools and equipment in a barber shop:

- heat, either moist or dry
- chemicals
- UV light rays

Moist heat: This is a very effective method of sterilising tools, even cutting tools. Heat is created by the use of an autoclave. This is a piece of equipment that heats water to a very high temperature – higher than boiling. It creates what is known as super-heated steam and this is hot enough to quickly kill most common bacteria found in barber shops. Autoclaves are used by doctors, dentists, chiropodists, etc. Small, hand held, tools are put into the autoclave, it is sealed and the water inside it is brought to the required temperature. The temperature is maintained for the time necessary to ensure that all bacteria are dead then the water is allowed to cool before the tools are removed.

The main disadvantage for using this method of sterilisation is that you must have sufficient supplies of tools to allow you to work on other clients while the autoclave is in use. A second disadvantage is that you must buy combs that can withstand very high temperatures if they are to go into the autoclave.

People sometimes ask if the steam will cause their cutting tools to rust – this does not happen. The steam evaporates quickly, leaving the tools dry, the same way that dishwashers leave cutlery dry.

Dry heat: This method of sterilisation is rarely used in barber shops. It is a method that uses an oven to create high temperatures. Although bacteria are effectively killed by this method, tools can be damaged because they are held in the heat for an extended time.

Chemicals: This method is often used in barber shops and is effective if used correctly. Tools must be washed before placing into the chemical solution otherwise the dirt on them will contaminate the solution. The chemical must fully cover the item – many barbers place their combs into a sterilising jar that is only $\frac{1}{2}$ full. The tools must be left in the chemical long enough for it to do its job. This time varies, depending on the cleanliness of the item and the strength of the chemical solution, but it can be as long as an hour. As with using an autoclave, this means that barbers must have enough tools to allow for the time to sterilise.

UV light rays: This method of sterilisation uses Ultra Violet (UV) light rays to kill bacteria. Tools are cleaned then placed into a UV cabinet and the light sterilises those areas that it reaches. This means that you must turn the item so that all surfaces are treated. Busy barbers don't always do this so the method loses much of its effectiveness. The time needed to kill all bacteria using this method varies according to the cleanliness of the tools.

NOTE: Don't place electric clippers into an autoclave or any liquid. Remove cutting blades and attachments for sterilisation or use special sterilising sprays designed for this purpose.

The importance of personal hygiene

The most important thing a client wants when he comes to a barber shop is good hairdressing. If the barber provides a good service to a high standard then the client is likely to return. However, if the barber does not ensure that their personal hygiene is of the same high standard as their hairdressing the client may not come back. Body odour (BO) can be the result of insufficient cleanliness.

Human skin contains sweat glands that secrete waste in the form of sweat. Bacteria need warm, moist conditions to be able to multiply. There are lots of harmless bacteria in the sweaty, warm folds of the body – the groin and in the armpits, etc. When bacteria die they decompose, they decay, and this is what causes odour.

If a person washes thoroughly at least every 24 hours it is unlikely that they will have BO unless they do not also change their clothing. All clothing that comes into contact with the skin, especially the type that is in contact with the armpits and groin, must be changed once a day. The clothing absorbs sweat and if this is not washed or dry cleaned out of the fabric it will smell.

Some people try to cover the smell of unwashed skin or clothing by using deodorants. It is not possible to do this – the odour is still noticeable to others although the person themselves may not be aware of it. Antiperspirants and deodorants are designed to be used on clean skin and should never be applied to unwashed skin.

Oral hygiene must be kept up by frequently brushing your teeth and visiting the dentist regularly to ensure that you have no decaying teeth. Bad teeth can cause bad breath.

Dirty hands and fingernails could carry infectious diseases or infestations from one client to another. Therefore it is important to ensure that your hands are sanitised between clients.

Hairdressing is a very personal service and the personal hygiene and appearance of the people who work in the industry is of great importance. You must pay close attention to:

hygiene

- daily shower or bath
- the use of antiperspirants and deodorants
- oral (mouth) hygiene.

appearance

- hair and make-up – the latter relating mainly to female barbers
- hands and nails
- shoes
- jewellery
- posture

Why must you change your clothing every day?

Factors affecting facial hair cutting - (1 of 3)

Barbers have to be aware of the possibility of spreading infections or infestations from client to client or of the likelihood of contracting the condition themselves. Also they must check the hair type, density, texture and growth patterns as well as the shape of the head and face, any ear or facial piercings and any hair or scalp disorders.

Suspected infections

It is possible to pass infections from one client to another. You must ensure very high standards of hygiene to minimise this risk. There are many infections that can be transmitted in a barber shop:

- impetigo
- barber's rash (sometimes called barber's itch)
- ringworm of the head

However, the most dangerous infections that can be spread in a barber shop are Hepatitis B and HIV. A virus that can be passed in body fluids such as blood causes both of these conditions. You must cover any cuts or other breaks in your skin because if your skin is broken and you nick an infected client's skin and cause even a tiny amount of bleeding this infected blood can transmit the virus to you through the cut in your skin.

Always sterilise all tools after each use.

Suspected infestations

It is important to ensure that infestations are not passed on but you will not be able to take steps to prevent this if you don't recognise the two most common infestations. You must learn to recognise head lice and the signs of scabies:

- head lice it is possible to see the lice in the hair or on the scalp, and the nits, tiny greyish eggs, are stuck to the hairs close to the scalp, usually around the ears and in the nape area – the warm areas of the head
- the signs of scabies are the presence of a rash around the waist, wrists and behind the knees (in the folds of the body), these areas are very itchy and irritated.

Hair type

When the client chooses a look, check that it is suitable for the hair type – the beard hair may be too curly or too straight for the chosen look.

Hair density

You must take the density of the beard or moustache into account when deciding on a look for the client. If the hair is very sparse or abundant certain looks may not be suitable. The hair may be more dense in some areas of the beard and this, too, can influence your choice of look. Take care to check that the beard has not been left longer in a specific area to camouflage an area of sparse growth or to cover a scar.

Factors affecting facial hair cutting - (2 of 3)

Hair texture

The texture of the client's hair may be unsuitable for the required look. Fine, soft hair often lies flat to the face whereas coarse hair is sometimes quite full and needs to be shaped close to the face to achieve the desired look. The texture of the beard and moustache often becomes more coarse as a man grows older.

Head and face shape

You must choose a look that will complement the client's head and face shape. Avoid beard or moustache shapes that emphasise any bad features the client may have.

Pay attention to the shape of the:

- jaw
- chin
- nose
- lips.

In addition to:

- cleft in the chin
- moles
- warts
- scars
- other uncommon facial characteristics.

Give the client advice on the most suitable look and make use of visual aids such as style books to help the client to agree the best style.

Facial piercings

It is fashionable at present for men to have facial piercings and you must ensure that you don't catch them with the comb or cutting tools while working. It may be best to ask the client to remove any jewellery from these piercings during the cut.

Hair growth patterns

You must identify any growth patterns because these can influence the way the beard is cut as well as the choice of look. The hair must be cut in the direction of the growth pattern to maintain the evenness of the cut and to avoid possible discomfort to the client.

The most common beard growth patterns are:

- strong directional growth – areas where the hair grows in a specific direction
- whorls – this is when the hair grows in a swirl at different areas of the beard

Hair and skin disorders

Many hair or skin disorders will affect the choice of facial hair style to be made.

The most common non-infectious conditions are:

- alopecia – there are different types of alopecia but all result in areas of baldness. The skin is very smooth and looks shiny

Factors affecting facial hair cutting - (3 of 3)

- psoriasis – thickened, raised patches of skin. It can look silvery and is very itchy
- sebaceous cyst – a lump on the scalp caused by a blocked sebaceous gland
- eczema – red, weeping, irritated skin. Can be painful
- scars – caused by injury to the skin. May cause the skin to pucker or drag.

A further infectious disorder is:

- acne – unsightly, inflamed spots on the skin.

How the critical influencing factors in the range can affect the way the facial hair is cut

The **head and face shape** influences the look because:

- the choice of look may be unflattering to the head or face shape so may have to be reconsidered.

Hair growth patterns affect the choice of facial hair shape because:

- there may be a growth pattern that forces you to change the choice of look
- you may have to change your choice of tools to use to achieve the required look.

The client's **hair style** influences the choice of beard and/or moustache shape because:

- the chosen shape may not complement the hairstyle
- the choice of shape may not balance with the hairstyle.

Adverse skin conditions will affect the way you cut the facial hair because:

- there may be infection or infestation present
- there may be a condition such as acne, eczema or psoriasis that may affect your choice of look or choice of technique to use
- an unusual facial characteristic such as a mole, wart or scar may affect your choice of look or choice of technique to use.

Hair density can affect the way you cut the hair because:

- the hair may be too sparse for the look that the client wants
- the hair may be too abundant for the required look.

Hair, skin and scalp analysis

The indications of suspected infections, infestations and disorders and the likely causes of adverse hair and scalp conditions visible to the naked eye

Condition	Symptoms	Infectious/Contagious	Service in salon	Medical referral	Possible cause
Psoriasis	Thickened, silvery skin	No	Yes	If skin is broken	Cause unknown Hereditary disorder
Eczema	Red, inflamed skin, may break and weep	No	Yes	If skin is broken	Irritation or allergic response to irritant
Alopecia	Smooth, shiny, bald patches	No	Yes	If condition is worsening	Hereditary, possibly, stress related
Dry scalp	Dry, scaling scalp	No	Yes	If skin is broken	Over production of skin cells Cause unknown
Dandruff	Dry, scaling scalp	May be infectious	Yes	If infection is suspected	Over production of skin cells, Possible fungal infection
Impetigo	Yellow, crusty spots	Yes	No	Yes	Bacterial infection
Tinea capitis	Grey, bald patches with red outer ring and hair	Yes	No	Yes	Fungal (Ringworm infection)
Folliculitis	Inflamed hair follicles	Yes	No	Yes	Fungal infection
Pediculosis capitis	Scratch marks, presence of lice or nits	Yes	No	Chemist (shampoo)	Infestation by head lice
Scabies	Red spots, grey burrow lines	Yes	No	Yes	Infestation by the itch mite

The importance of cutting to the natural facial hairline

Most men have hair that grows outside of the natural facial hairline and it is important to remove this hair to prevent the shape looking untidy and unfinished.

You should try to cut the beard, sideburns and moustache to the natural facial hairline because:

- the shape requires less maintenance and will be retained for a longer time
- the shape usually appears more natural.

A good barber will outline the look at the top lip, around the sideburns, at the neck and under the chin. It may also be necessary to outline the areas at the cheeks or above the moustache.

Outlining can be done by using small electric clippers that are designed for this purpose - they cut the hair very short and close to the skin.

A spiral-bound notebook with a black cover and a silver spiral binding at the top. The notebook is open to a page with horizontal lines. The word "Notes" is written in the top left corner of the page. The page is otherwise blank.

The range within the NVQ/SVQ will affect the way the facial hair is cut:

- head and face shape – the chosen look may be unflattering
- hair growth patterns – may force them to change the choice of beard or moustache shape or choice of tools
- hair style – the chosen shape may not balance with the hairstyle or it may not complement it
- adverse skin conditions -
- acne, psoriasis, eczema, etc... - may force a change of look or technique
- infection or infestation may be present – do not carry out a service
- a scar, mole, wart - may force the barber to make a change of look or technique
- hair density – hair may be too sparse or too abundant for the chosen shape.

Most men have a lot of hair that grows outside of the natural facial hairline. For example, on the neck. It is important to remove this hair or the finished beard or moustache shape will look untidy and unfinished.

You should always try to cut to the natural facial hairline, because, if you cut within it then remove the hair that grows on the outside of the outline shape, the hair will soon grow back and the outline shape will be lost very quickly.

There are two main reasons for cutting to the natural facial hairline:

- the shape usually appears more masculine
- the shape requires less maintenance and will last longer.

A good barber will outline the look at the top lip, around the sideburns, at the neck and under the chin. You may also outline at the cheeks or above the moustache.

Outlining can be done by using small electric clippers designed for this purpose – they cut the hair very short and close to the skin.

Notes

Basic beard and moustache shapes

There are many beard and moustache shapes, some have been in existence for centuries while others are much more recent in design.

Beards may be full or partial, long or short, voluminous or lie close to the face.

Moustaches may be wide or narrow, close-cropped or full, cover only the top of the lip or curve round the sides of the mouth.

Full beards that follow the contours of the face and that don't need to be shaved at some areas have always been popular. They are often worn by men whose work takes them to cold climates or who have facial abnormalities (warts, scars, etc) that they wish to cover.

These beards need frequent trimming to keep them in shape, they can very quickly become overgrown and look unkempt.

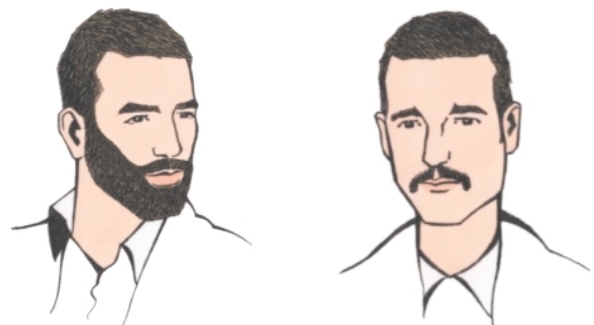
Moustaches that cover only the top lip are often worn on their own – the beard is shaved off. These moustaches are sometimes kept very thin and are known as pencil moustaches, others are allowed to become quite full. Many years ago some were waxed into elaborate shapes, eg, the handlebar moustache.

Ensure that the shape of the moustache is suitable for the facial features, for example, a large moustache may look out of place on a small face.

Moustaches that curve around the sides of the mouth are mainly worn along with a beard. The beard may be full or partial but the moustache must be cut and shaped to blend with the beard and to complement it.

Moustaches that curve around the sides of the mouth may be worn on their own but they should always complement the face shape and the client's hair style. For example a large, full moustache may not be suitable for the client who wears his hair cut in a close crop.

Which shape moustache is likely to be the best style choice for a man whose lips are large and full?



The importance of consulting with clients throughout the cutting process

Consultation is a process that should begin as soon as the client is seated in the chair and then continue throughout the facial hair cutting service.

It is essential that you carry out a full consultation before starting the work. This will enable you to determine the client's requirements and identify anything that may restrict the work that you intend to do. Once this initial consultation is complete and the facial haircut begins, it is just as important to continue to consult with the client.

This will allow you to accurately establish the client's wishes.

You will be able to:

- double-check the amount of hair he wants removed before you cut it
- confirm the length to leave the beard, moustache or sideburns
- confirm that he wants to maintain the existing shape of the beard and/or moustache.

It will also help you to give the client accurate information about his beard/moustache and his skin.

For example:

- the need to retain length or bulk to cover an abnormality
- the growth of a mole or wart.

You can check the progress of the beard or moustache trim to meet the client's requirements.

For example:

- have you taken enough off?
- is the shape as required?

By consulting throughout the service you can provide a better service to your clients.

Notes

How and when to cut facial hair using freehand, scissor over comb, clipper with attachment and clipper over comb cutting techniques

You must be able to decide when to use specific techniques as well as know how to use them. This knowledge will help you to achieve the look that the client wants.

When to use different techniques:

- freehand – when outlining a beard or moustache. Also used when tension is to be avoided or to remove individual hairs or small amounts of hair
- scissors over comb – this technique is used to shorten hair and to achieve graduation in the beard trim
- clippers with attachments – to achieve an even length throughout the beard trim
- clippers over comb – mainly used as a replacement for scissors over comb on longer, coarser or denser hair.

How to use different techniques:

- freehand – comb the hair smooth and into position then cut it without holding or supporting it with either your hand or your comb
- scissors over comb – the hair is lifted and held in the comb by combing the hair in an upward motion and the hair that protrudes through the comb is cut, holding the scissors above the comb. Use the coarse teeth of the comb when cutting longer hair and the fine teeth for holding shorter hair

- clippers with attachments – the hair is lifted and held by the attachment while being cut
- clippers over comb – the same method is used as for scissors over comb but the clipper is used instead of the scissors.

Do not restrict yourself to using just one or two techniques or cutting tools. By ensuring that you are able to use a variety of tools and techniques you will become more proficient and effective.

Which two tools can be used when cutting freestyle?

1 _____

2 _____

The reasons for establishing and following guidelines and how to create and follow a guideline for a uniform layer

There are three main reasons for establishing and following guidelines:

- to decide on the length and shape of the facial haircut
- to help you to progress methodically through the cut
- to help you to achieve accuracy in the cut.

It is very important that you determine the different lengths that the beard is going to measure at the different areas of the face. This is done by creating a guideline or guidelines.

A guideline is normally placed at one side of the face, either side, usually where the sideburn joins the beard, but it doesn't matter where it starts or finishes, the important feature of any guideline is that it is accurate.

As you progress from one area of the face to another the first cut is the guideline, the next cut is made to follow that guideline, therefore, it now becomes the guideline. By matching each piece of hair to the piece previously cut you will be following the original guideline. It is important to follow any graduation in the guideline or the shape will be lost.

If you follow the guideline you will be able to work your way over the face in a methodical, structured way and this will help to ensure an accurate, balanced facial haircut.

Creating a guideline for a uniform length cut

Take the beard hair into the comb and hold it at 90° to the skin, with the comb parallel to the skin, cut the hair to the required length. Use this section as a guide for all subsequent sections and hold these at 90° to the skin and the comb parallel to the skin. By doing this the hair will be cut to the same length all over.

How to cross-check and balance the cut and why this is important

When a barber cuts a beard he takes sections of hair into his comb and these sections will run:

- up and down the face - vertical sections
- across the face - horizontal sections.

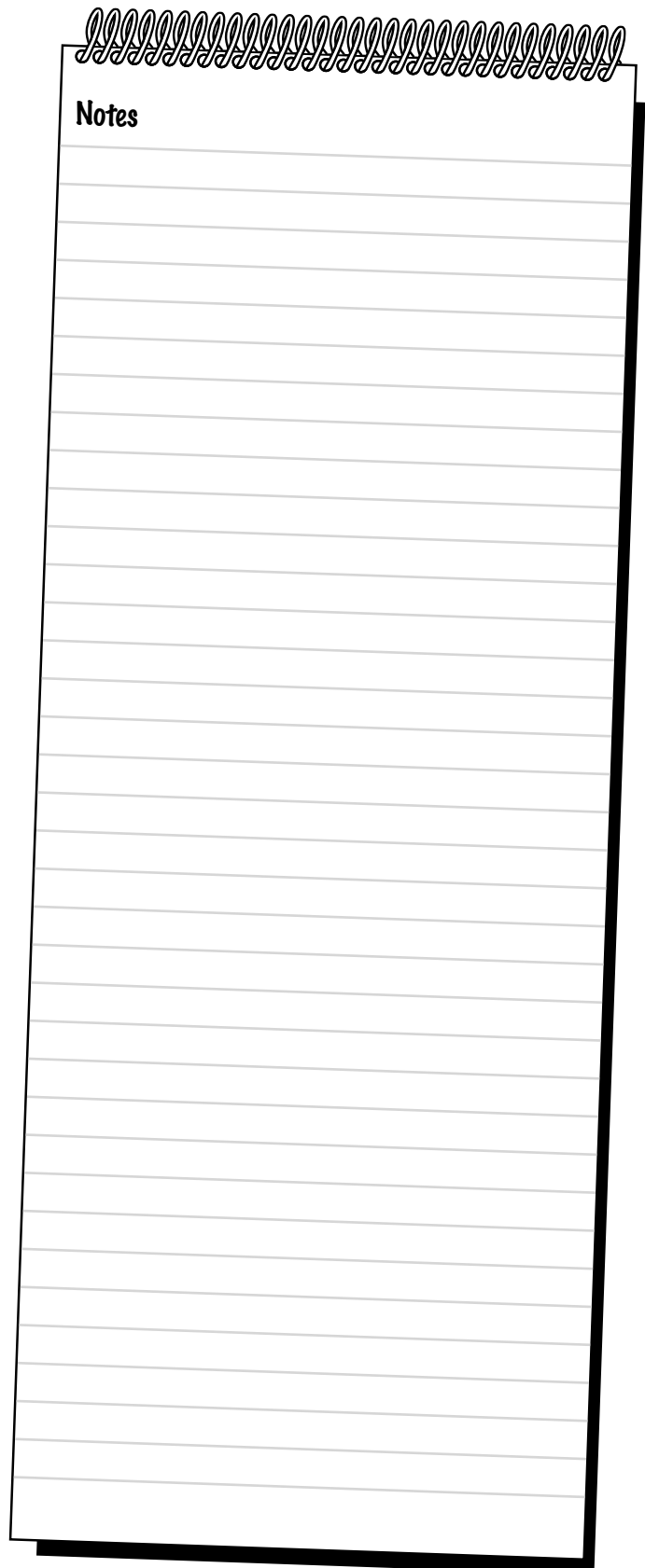
If you have used vertical sections when cutting the beard you must take horizontal sections to check the accuracy of the cut. If you have used horizontal sections when cutting, then use vertical sections when checking. This is why the process is called 'cross' checking, you work across the original sectioning method.

When balancing the cut ensure that it is of even length and bulk at both sides of the face.

Balancing a beard or moustache trim is a visual procedure – use the mirror frequently to check for accuracy and balance and that the bulk and length is even at both sides.

Use the mirror and a back mirror to let you check from different angles, this helps you to check all areas from all angles.

It is very important that you cross-check the cut if you are to be sure that it is accurate and meets the client's requirements.



Notes

The importance of considering weight distribution and working with the natural growth patterns of the facial hair

It is very important to consider the natural growth patterns of the hair and its weight distribution when cutting a beard. If you fail to do this you may not achieve the required look.

Weight distribution

The hair may be sparse in some areas, it may be very dense in other areas. A barber should check the weight distribution of the beard at the consultation and agree the amount to remove to maintain the shape of the facial haircut with the client.

If this is not done it could result in too much hair being removed from an area of sparse growth, so the beard or moustache may look uneven and this will not meet the client's requirements.

Natural growth patterns of the facial hair

You must take the natural growth patterns of the beard into consideration when deciding the techniques to use to maintain its shape.

The hair may stick out from the face, it may lie very close to the skin or it may be pushed up or to the side by a strong growth pattern – this often happens on the neck under and to the side of the chin.

If you do not work with the natural growth patterns rather than against them the result will be unsatisfactory. The average rate of hair growth
The average rate of growth of a human hair is 1.25 cms a month. This is about the same as 1/2 inch per month.

It is important that you know this so that you can advise the client how soon he should return to the salon in order to maintain his facial hair shape.

Sometimes clients ask their barber to reduce the length of their facial hair to the length of the last trim. This can be difficult to calculate unless you know the average rate of growth. By finding out the approximate date of his last beard or moustache trim you can work out how much facial hair to take off to return the length to match the previous trim.

What is the average rate of growth for human hair?

The effects of the continual use of razors on dark skin

Although the use of razors is not required for success in this Level 2 NVQ/SVQ/SVQ, men shave themselves at home and it is worth knowing what may happen in certain situations. This will help you to give accurate information and advice to your clients and will assist in building good relationships with them.

When dark skinned men use a razor frequently there is a risk that the skin will become calloused and darker in colour. This may not happen over all of the shaven areas, it may only occur in the areas where the skin is finer and thinner. The affected parts of the face or neck look and feel rough and the skin is raised and distinctly darker.

This often happens in men who have sensitive skin – the skin reacts to the friction of the razor as though it were being burned; it thickens to prevent possible damage to the dermis. This is the skin's way of protecting itself.

Moisturising lotions and creams may help to keep the skin lubricated so that it feels less rough but there is nothing that can be done to restore the natural colour of the skin.

The potential risk of ingrowing hair resulting from continual cutting of curly hair

When curly hair is being cut the barber must make sure that the hair is not cut too short or it may lead to ingrowing hairs in the beard area.

This can happen during shaving if the skin is tensioned too much, possibly when performing a sponge shave, or if the skin is shaved against the direction of growth of the beard. It happens more often in African Caribbean men than in those of Asian or Caucasian descent, perhaps because the hair of African Caribbean men is usually curlier.

The condition may be due to hairs curling in the follicle or to the hair being shaved so close that it is cut off below the surface of the skin. A hair or hairs may pierce the follicle wall and grow into the skin rather than emerging from the opening of the follicle. This results in inflammation of the skin, which may cause irritation. If the client scratches the area there is a risk of causing an infection.

How can you bring an area of calloused skin back to its normal colour?

Aftercare advice

Good aftercare advice is an important part of the facial haircutting service. There are three main areas on which clients should be advised relating to cutting facial hair:

The recommended time interval between cuts

Every client should be given advice on when to return to the salon for his next facial haircut.

He should be advised to return:

- whenever he has difficulty in maintaining the look
- when the beard or moustache begins to lose its shape
- according to the rate of hair growth.

Tell the client that most of these signs will occur very close together but that the first two depend on the third. If the hair grows quickly then the look and the shape will be lost sooner than if the hair grows slowly.

The importance of regularly exfoliating the hair outline after cutting

If the client outlines his beard or moustache, especially if he uses a razor to do this and particularly if he is African Caribbean, then he must be advised to exfoliate his skin after this process.

By doing so he will avoid a build up of dead skin cells and will keep his skin soft. This will help to prevent ingrowing hairs.

Some men, especially older men, are hesitant about using skin products, they consider them to be feminine - not very manly, particularly if they are perfumed, even mildly so. It is your responsibility to explain that, by using such products, he may prevent the painful and unsightly result of ingrowing hairs on his face and neck.

Suitable exfoliating products

Most of the major manufacturers of men's hairdressing materials also have a range of skin products. You must learn as much as possible about the range that is carried by your salon.

Get to know the features and benefits of the products by using as many of them as are suitable for your own skin and by reading the manufacturer's instructions for each.

If a client purchases a product of which you don't have experience ask him to tell you about it.
(page 2 of 2)

Different skin reacts differently to products so you must take careful note of your client's skin type before advising him on the benefits of a specific item, but the important thing is that he understands the possible consequences of not using an exfoliant.