

## **Nail Technology**

Nail technology consists of treatments to the nails of the hand and the feet, both natural and artificial. This includes performing manicures and pedicures and augmenting the nails with false tips and false nails.

### **Work Environment**

Manicurists and pedicurists work in a spa or nail salon. Those who own a mobile grooming company travel to meet with their clients. Many work evenings and weekends.

Manicurists and pedicurists sometimes use chemicals when working on fingernails and toenails, so they often wear latex gloves, masks, and protective clothing.

Although most manicurists and pedicurists work full time, many have variable schedules and work part time. Their schedules are often determined by the type of establishment they work for. For example, a full service salon may require manicurists and pedicurists to work an eight-hour day. A boutique hair salon, however, may require shorter work hours on a part-time basis. Longer hours are not unusual for self-employed workers. Weekends and evenings tend to be the busiest times for manicurists and pedicurists.

### **How to get Qualified**

Manicurists and pedicurists must complete an approved cosmetology program. Formal certification is becoming more important and necessary in the field. In the United States and other parts of the developed world, state licenses are required. After completing a state-approved cosmetology program, manicurists and pedicurists must take a written and practical exam to get a license through their state board.

Other qualifications/skills required:

***Creativity.*** The ability to neatly finish small, intricate designs is important, as is the ability to suggest and match nail designs for individual tastes.

***Customer-service skills.*** Good listening and interpersonal skills are important when working with clients. Also, meeting the needs of clients, including interacting with them while doing a manicure or pedicure, helps to encourage repeat business.

***Dexterity.*** A steady hand is essential in achieving a creative and precise nail design. Because manicurists and pedicurists often use sharp tools, they must also be well coordinated.

### **Job Outlook**

Employment of manicurists and pedicurists is expected to grow 17 percent from 2010 to 2020, about as fast as the average for all occupations. High turnover and the growing number of nail salons will result in very good job opportunities.

The increase in employment reflects demand for new nail services being offered, such as mini sessions (quick manicures at a low cost) and mobile manicures and pedicures (house calls). The desire among young women and a growing number of men to lead a more healthful lifestyle through better grooming and wellness should also result in higher employment.

Considered a low-cost luxury service, manicures and pedicures will continue to be in demand by individuals at all income levels.

Job opportunities should be very good overall. The growing number of nail salons and the need to replace workers who transfer to other occupations will result in many job openings.