

Caution: Before start reading this section, make sure that you have already gone through the main sections of EASY READING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TOOL FOR WOMEN. By reading the tool, you will have clearer understanding on processes and requirements to start and manage the business

Starting a Beauty and Body Services Business in Calgary and Surrounding Areas

This guide will help you start a beauty and body business in Calgary and surrounding areas. The City of Calgary has a detailed guide on how to start the Beauty and Body Business on their website. See Links to Important Websites section.



Business Overview

Beauty and body service businesses cover the following areas:

1. Hair removal, electrolysis, waxing, and non-medical laser treatments
2. Aesthetics, including manicures, pedicures, and facials
3. Shampooing, cutting, removing, coloring, treating or styling hair
4. Hair extensions
5. Hair replacement
6. Shaving, massaging or otherwise treating the face or scalp
7. Baths including a steam cabinet, steam bath, hot tub or sauna
8. Body piercing
9. Physical fitness conditioning
10. Tanning
11. Tattooing, including eyebrow micro-blading, permanent and semi-permanent makeup
12. Non-permanent tattoos, henna
13. Massage

The Alberta Public Health Act for Personal Service Regulations groups beauty and body businesses into these two categories:

1. Esthetics Service	Applying makeup, providing facials, manicures, or pedicures, and removing hair by waxing
2. Personal Service	Body or ear piercing, removing hair by electrolysis, esthetics services, hairstyling, and tattooing

A business may be providing services in one or both of these categories. The regulations provide rules about business owner's duties, general requirements for the place of business where the service is provided, and instructions on equipment and instruments. See Links to Important Websites section. The table below shows some of the beauty and body areas and required minimum qualifications in Alberta:

Area of Beauty care	Overview	Average hourly wage	Minimum education requirements
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Hair Stylist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It provides hair cutting and styling services • Hairstylist is employed in hairstyling or hairdressing salons, barbershops, vocational schools, health care centers and theatre, film and television businesses • Hairstylists can also start their own business 	\$ 20.74	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A hairstylist is under Alberta's Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act and the Hairstylist Trade Regulation 2. Certification is recognized by the Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training Board 3. A hairstylist may also work under a registered apprentice to cut and style a paying customer's hair in Alberta
Esthetician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides facial and body treatments designed to enhance an individual's physical appearance 	\$ 18.86	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An esthetician requires certification from an esthetician's educational or training institute
Makeup Artist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides professional make services up for media and fashion 	\$ 23.32	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of high school, college, or beauty school programs for cosmeticians or on-the-job training is desired
Nail technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works on nail cleaning, designing, and painting 	\$ 18.86	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no standard requirements for nail technicians 2. A high school diploma and related training are assets 3. Some salons ask for training in specific spa services such as pedicures, gel toenails, body polishes, or body wraps
Cosmetician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advises customers on the use of make-up and other beauty products • Applies make-up to customers • May specialize in applying make-up to models or other individuals for special occasions 	\$18.86	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completion of high school, college, 2. or beauty school programs for cosmeticians or on-the-job training is desired
Massage therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massage therapists assess soft tissues and joints of the body for treatment • Massage therapists also help in the prevention of dysfunction, injury, pain, and physical disorders 	\$ 36.41	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Massage therapists usually require completion of an 18 to 36-month program in massage therapy from an accredited school 2. A period of supervised practical training

Tip: There are many colleges in Calgary specialized in the provision of beauty and body care education and certification

Steps to Start a Beauty and Body Service Business

Like any other business, beauty and body service business must go through the regular process of registration, permits, and licensing to start a business. Visit the nearest registry for business registration and city of Calgary for the permits and license details.

Businesses which offer beauty and body services or the use of equipment to provide services also require:

- A municipal business license from the City of Calgary
- A Calgary Police Service background check for businesses offering tattoos, micro-blading, permanent or semi-permanent makeup, or piercing services. This does not include non-permanent tattoos or tattoo removal.
- Require inspection and license from the Fire Prevention Bureau in most cases

Employees of personal service businesses do not require a separate individual license. Businesses providing personal services that rent or lease a chair or space from an already licensed personal service business require a separate personal service (independent chair operator) license.

Home-based beauty and body service businesses:

- Require land use approval and a business number
- A layout plan that must be submitted to an Environmental Health Officer. The plan should include details on the location, illustrations of storage and washrooms. To connect with the Calgary the Environmental Public Health office call 403-943-2295

Each space in a building has its own specified, approved use that cannot be changed without approval, permit, or both. To get the land-use approval to apply to the City of Calgary

Businesses that offer beauty and body services must follow Alberta Health Services' overall health and safety procedures for beauty and body services along with guidelines on the management of chemicals and equipment. Compliance is compulsory for all beauty and body businesses such as use of disinfectants and sterilization of equipment.

Business Area	Health and Safety	Information Details
Disinfectants	Personal service facilities including hairstylists must label all disinfectants. Disinfectants must carry a drug identification number. The strength of disinfectants varies and the correct type must be kept and used for the associated purpose.	See weblink Alberta Health Services Guidelines and standards for the use of disinfectants for personal care facility in Links to Important Websites section
Standards for Esthetics	All businesses engaged in body waxing, makeup and nails must follow Alberta Health standards. These standards define handling	See weblink Alberta Health Services Guidelines and

	procedures and instrument management procedures.	standards in Links to important websites section
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