

# Hairstylist Glossary

## Glossary Purpose

*This provincial document in addition to the National Occupational Analysis (NOA) Glossary ([www.red-seal.ca](http://www.red-seal.ca)) is in response to industry's request to help assist Saskatchewan Apprentices and Tradespeople in their understanding of common terms and descriptions used in the Hairstylist trade.*

## Occupational Skills

**Abrasion** (in the context of hairstyling) – a small sore, typically on the scalp.

**Accelerant** – A chemical used to speed up a chemical process on the hair.

**Adhere to** - to stick to.

**Characteristic** – a feature or attribute of something. (e.g. *the hair is dull, the scalp is oily*)

**Disinfect** – A chemical product used to destroy or kill bacteria and a broad spectrum of viruses

**Distribution (hair)** – The direction the hair is combed.

**Distribution (product)** – The placement of product (e.g. *styling aid*) on the hair.

**Elevation/Projection** – These terms are used for several services. Typically, this refers to the angle at which the hair is combed away from the scalp.

**Etching** (carving with a razor) – Using a razor to remove length with firm pressure and arcing of the razor.

**Excess** – a term referring to something which is “extra” or “in addition to” (e.g. excess moisture, excess length).

**Fragile** – a physical state of the hair when it is weak.

**Manipulate** - This term is used for several services. Typically, this term is used with tools.

**Matting** – Severely tangled and knotted hair.

**Over-direct** - This term is most often used for styling (rollers/styling iron) and permanent waving (rod placement) when hair combed above the center of the base of the sub-section. The sub-section must be at least one and a half times the size of the tool to create the exaggerated volume. The tool must sit on the top of the base.

**Protective/Barrier cream** – to protect the client’s skin, especially at the hairline.

**Protein/Keratin** – both of these terms refer to protein within the hair.

**Pull (Elasticity) Test** – A hair strand is stretched to determine if it will return to its original state or break.

**Random** – Without noticeable pattern or order.

**Razor rotation** – a razor and comb working together one after the other.

**Residue** – A chemical or product that is left on the hair shaft or scalp after use.

**Sanitize** - to remove dirt to aid in preventing the growth of microbes; sanitizing does not kill germs or spores

**Saturate** – to soak completely with water or solution.

**Sebaceous glands** – Oil glands in the skin that produce natural oil (sebum).

**Section/Panel** – refers to the largest parting or section of hair to prepare for a procedure such as styling, colour or permanent waving.

**Stabilizer/pick** – A tool used to keep permanent wave rods in place.

**Styptic** – a medicated product (stick or powder) that can be applied to seal small cuts and nicks.

**Subsection/Parting** – refers to individual/smaller sections/partings of hair within the largest panel or section.

**Taut** – With tension. (e.g. *the skin is held taut*)

**Under-direct** This term is most often used for styling (rollers/styling iron) and permanent waving (rod placement) when hair combed below the center of the base of the sub-section. The sub-section must be at least one and a half times the size of the tool to create the lack of volume or “closeness”. The tool must sit on the bottom of the base.

## Haircutting/Hairshaping

**Block** - A term used in clipper cutting to indicate the distinct outline of the nape area. Not a natural hairline.

**Classic bob, Blunt, 0 Elevation, One length, Solid form** - These terms refer to all hair being cut to one level.

**Elevation/Projection** – These terms are used for several services. Typically, this refers to the angle at which the hair is lifted away from the scalp.

**Equal Haircut/Uniform** (similar terms) - These terms refer to a basic layered haircut where all hair being cut is to one common length.

**Evenness/Symmetry** – The balance of the hair design.

**Fringe (Bang) Area** – The section of hair that covers the forehead.

**Fringe or Wisp** – A softening of the perimeter.

**Guideline/Design Line** – The first section of hair used as a pattern or guide for a haircut (length). This guide may be cut at the perimeter or the interior of the haircut.

**Horizontal/Vertical/Diagonal/Perpendicular** – These terms are used for several services. These are lines indicating the direction used for the work being performed. (*e.g. the guideline is horizontal to the floor; the perm rod is placed vertically on the head*)

**Sculpt (haircutting)** – This refers to the action of cutting hair.

**Sculpt (moulding)** – This refers to the action of directing hair in a specific pattern such as a C-shaping.

**Slide/Slither/Effilate** – when a partially open shear is used to cut a graduated length on a section of hair.

**Squared/Rounded** – A hairline shape on shorter hairstyles such as a clipper cut/taper cut.

**Taper / Graduation** - There is an even blend from very short at the hairline to longer lengths as we move up the interior.

**Thinning/Blending/Tapering/Texturizing Notching/Chunking/Channelling Shears** – Shears designed with one straight blade and one with gaps or spacing. The gaps or spacing will increase from small to large.

**Weight (concentration of length)** – Where the greatest amount of bulk is within a hair design.

**Natural Fall** – Natural growth pattern of hair.

## Styling

**Carve (Styling/Moulding)** – The act of sectioning hair within a moulded shaping such as the base of a pincurl.

**French Twist/French Roll** – An updo style.

**Pin/Clip** – a small tool to secure a roller or sculpted curl such as a pin curl.

**Relax (styling)** – to reduce the roller separation lines within the wave or curl design with tools and/or fingers.

**Ribbon(ing)** – The act of smoothing the strand from base to ends with a comb.

## Chemical Waving/Relaxing

**Buffering agent** – another term for conditioners which are added to chemical treatment products.

**Cold wave** – alkaline-based permanent wave

**Pre-wrap/Porosity equalizer/filler** – terms which refer to a product that balance the porosity of the hair shaft.

**Reform/Rebond/Harden** – The action performed by the neutralizer in a chemical process.

**Relax** – to reduce the amount of natural wave or curl in the hair with chemical or product.

**Straighten** - to remove the natural wave or curl in the hair with chemical or product.

**Test Curl** – Used to determine the progress of a permanent wave. A rod is selected and unwound one and a half times to determine if the curl pattern has completed processing.

**Patch (Pre-disposition/Skin) Test** – Used to analyze the client's skin reaction to a chemical and/or product.

## Colour

**Bleach/Lightner/Decolourizer** – Terms used for a product that diffuses (lightens) hair pigment (melanin).

**Booster/Activator** - An additive for chemical services to increase the strength of the product and/or the speed of the process.

**Buffering agent** – another term for conditioners which are added to chemical treatment products.

**Colour Remover/Dye solvent/Colour stripper** – A chemical product that removes artificial colour.

**Demarcation (line of)** - The visible line between the hair growing from the scalp to where a previous chemical service was applied.

**Demi** – A no lift, deposit only colour that uses a developer.

**Deposit** – When applying product to the hair.

**Developer/Oxidizing agent/Peroxide** – An activating product that is used with oxidative colours and lighteners.

**Highlight** – To lighten sections of hair within the colour design.

**Lift (to lighten)** – The description of diffusing colour pigment as the hair is lightened artificially.

**Lowlight** - To darken sections of hair within the colour design.

**Metallic/Progressive colour** – A non-professional product, which coats the hair strand rather than penetrating the hair strand. A progressive colour continues to add depth with each application (i.e. darker and darker).

**Paint/free-form/Balage** – a freehand technique to apply colour or lightener.

**Permanent hair colour (oxidative colour)** – A single process colour, that requires a developer to activate the chemical process. This colour may lighten or darken hair.

**Regrowth/Newgrowth** – The hair growing from the scalp to the line of demarcation.

**Semi (Non-oxidative)** - A no lift, deposit only colour a “direct dye”.

**Strand Test** – A chemical formula is applied to a small selection of hair strands. This test helps to determine if the process can proceed. If so, how long the chemicals should remain on the hair and/or formulation of the chemicals.

**Vividness/strength/vibrancy/depth/brightness** – Terms used to describe the intensity of the colour.