

Hairstylist Glossary

Glossary Purpose

This provincial document in addition to the National Occupational Analysis (NOA) Glossary (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

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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/Baliage – 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.