

# GOOD, CLEAN ART

*Protect yourself and your clients from bloodborne diseases.*

As a body artist, your ability to create living art is an amazing skill. But in creating your work you may be exposed to something just as permanent — hepatitis B, hepatitis C or the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Exposures to these bloodborne pathogens can occur in many ways. Cross-contamination is one of them.

Cross-contamination is the spread of bacteria and viruses through contact and happens when a contaminated object touches another object or surface, leaving behind germs. An example of cross-contamination is touching the telephone with gloves that you wore while working on a client.

Because some bloodborne pathogens can live on objects and surfaces for several days, you could be exposed to those germs and not know it.

## **Clean surfaces, equipment and work stations.**

Regularly wipe down used equipment and work areas using an EPA-approved disinfectant. This will reduce the chance for cross-contamination.

## **Wash your hands and change your gloves.**

Wash your hands after taking off your gloves because unseen tears may expose you to pathogens. Be sure to take off your gloves whenever you leave your work area.

## **If you use an autoclave for sterilization, be sure it is in good condition and working correctly.**

Because autoclaves are machines that use heat, pressure and steam to kill bacteria and viruses, they need regular care to continue to work well. Spore tests should be done regularly to be sure the machine is sterilizing correctly. Check with your local health department to learn how often spore testing should be done.

Be sure to check with your local health department to find out more about your state and local rules and regulations.

For more information on preventing occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens  
call 1-800-CDC-INFO  
or visit: [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/bodyart/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/bodyart/).





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