

Chapter 29: UV Gels

*Cosmetologists should study and have a thorough understanding of UV gel services **because clients may be interested in having UV gel services provided, an understanding of the chemistry of UV gel products will allow you to choose the best system and products, an understanding of how the UV gels are made, applied, and cured will allow you to create a safe and efficient salon service, and clients become loyal customers when they receive excellent service.***

UV GELS (p. 926-929)

- Rely on ingredients from the same chemical family as the monomer liquid and polymer powder
- Differs from other types of nail enhancements; after each layer of product is applied, it must be exposed to UV light to **cure** (harden)
- **Viscosity**- the thinness or thickness of a liquid; there are thin-viscosity gels, medium-viscosity gels, and thick viscosity gels
- **There are two general categories UV gels:**
 - **One-color method**- one color of UV gel is applied over the entire surface of the nail; used for clients who intend to wear colored polish or UV gel polish over the enhancement
 - **Two-color method**- two colors of resin are used to overlay the nail; usually pink and white are used allowing for an American or French manicure in which lacquer is not needed; consult the manufacturer about the product you intend to use before performing a two-color method

TYPES OF UV GELS (p.928-929)

- **UV bonding gels**- used to increase adhesion to the natural nail plate; will vary in consistency; some cure with a UV light while others do not (both are effective)
- **UV building gels**- thick-viscosity resin that allows the cosmetologist to build an arch and curve to the fingernail; can be used with self-leveling UV gels; very helpful when repairing a crack or break in a nail enhancement
- **UV self-leveling gels**- thinner in consistency than building gels; they settle and level during application; used with building gels, they reduce the need for filing and contouring
- **Pigmented UV gels**- building and self-leveling gels that contain pigment; used early in service to create art or French manicure look; to complete this look, use the two-color method
- **UV gel polish**- very thin viscosity UV gel; usually pigmented; sold in a pot or polish bottle; used as an alternative to traditional nail lacquers; cure in UV light; when finished curing, a gloss can be applied over top; used on natural nails or nail enhancements

- **UV gloss gel-** also known as sealing gel, finishing gel or shine gel; used over UV gel application to create a high shine (similar to a top coat or colored nail polish); do not require buffing
 - Inhibition layer- tacky surface left on the nail after a UV gel has cured

UV GEL SUPPLIES (929-930)

In addition to the basic manicuring setup, you will need:

- UV gel light unit
- Brush- synthetic brushes with small, flat or oval bristles
- UV gel primer or bonding gel-improve adhesion of UV gels to the natural plate
- UV gel
- Nail tips
- Nail adhesive
- Nail cleanser or primer- remove surface moisture/tiny amounts of oil on natural nail plate
- Abrasive files and buffers
- A cleansing solution
- Lint-free cleansing wipes

CHOOSING THE PROPER UV GEL (p. 931)

- If your client has flat fingernails, more building will need to be done; this is easiest with a thicker UV building gel
- If the client has fingernails with a curve and arch, a self-leveling gel may be best.
- If a client returns repeatedly with broken enhancements, a gel with fiberglass may be the best product

UV LIGHT UNITS AND LAMPS (p. 932-933)

- UV lamp- also known as UV light bulb; a special bulb that emits UV light to cure UV gel enhancements
- UV light unit- also known as UV light; specialized electronic device that powers and controls UV lamps to cure gel nail enhancements

UV GEL POLISH (p. 933-934)

- Popular service that evolved in 2000
- Has definite advantages over lacquer nail finish
 - Gel polishes do not dry- they cure
 - Gel polish does not thicken over time so it lasts longer in the container than lacquer does
 - Must be removed, however, by soaking/filing

UV GEL MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL (p. 934)

- Begin maintenance by thinning and shaping the enhancement with a medium-grit abrasive file
- **BE CAREFUL NOT TO DAMAGE THE NATURAL NAIL**
- Be sure to clean the nail with a cleanser recommended by the manufacturer; this removes oils from the fingernail and results in better adhesion of the gel to the nail plate

UV GEL REMOVAL (p. 934)

- **Hard UV gels** (traditional) must be filed off
- **Soft UV gels** (soakable) may be soaked in acetone and then removed (follow manufacturer's directions)

Step-by-step instructions on the application and removal of gel enhancements may be found on pages 935-952.

