

Chapter 27: Nail Tips and Wraps

Cosmetologists should study and have a thorough understanding of nail tips and wraps because offering nails tips and wraps expands your services, learning the proper technique for applying and removing nail tips will help your client keep their natural nails in the best possible condition, understanding wraps will enable you to determine the best wrap for your client's needs, and learning how to safely and correctly apply, maintain, and remove nail tips and wraps will ensure your client's happiness and loyalty.

NAIL TIPS (p. 874-875)

- **Nail tips**- plastic, pre-molded nails shaped from a tough polymer made from **acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) plastic**; adhere to the natural nail to add extra length and to serve as support for nail enhancement products; available in many sizes, colors, and shapes
- **Overlay**- a layer of any kind of nail enhancement product that is applied over the natural nail and tip application for added strength
- **In addition to the basic materials on the manicure table, you will need:** an abrasive board, buffer block, tip adhesive, tip cutter, nail dehydrator, and a variety of nail tips
- **Tip Adhesive**- bonding agent used to secure the nail tip to the natural nail; can be purchased in tubes or brush-on containers; gel adhesives (resins) are the thickest adhesives and take the longest to dry; thinner adhesives dry in about five seconds
- **Tip Cutter**- implement similar to a nail clipper but designed to be used on nail tips
- **Nail Dehydrator**- substance used to remove surface moisture and tiny amounts of oil left on the nail plate
- **“Well”**- a shallow depression on a nail tip that serves as the point of contact with the nail plate; there are tips that are full-well, partial well, and well-less (no well at all)
- **Position Stop**- the point where the free edge of the natural nail meets the tip; is where the tip is adhered to the nail

When the tip is applied, the contact area will need to be reduced with an abrasive; a perfect tip application will show no visible line between where the natural nail ends and the tip begins.

NAIL TIP APPLICATION (p. 879-881)

1. Clean nails and remove existing polish.
2. Gently push back the eponychium.
3. Carefully and gently remove the cuticle tissue from the nail plate.
4. Buff very lightly over the nail plate with a medium grit adhesive to remove shine caused by natural oils (don not use coarse abrasive, do not apply excess pressure); remove dust with clean, dry brush moving from cuticle to free edge .
5. Apply nail dehydrator to remove surface moisture and tiny amounts of oil left on nail plate
6. Check to be sure you have properly sized tips for your client; they must fit exactly over the nail plate sidewall to sidewall; put all tips on towel in order of finger position.

7. Place enough adhesive to cover the area where the tip will be placed; may put adhesive on the natural nail or the well of the tip; LESS is better; **do not let adhesive touch the skin.**
8. Slide the tips onto the client's natural nail and stop, rock, and hold for 5 to 10 seconds.
Find the stop against the free edge at a 45-degree angle then rock the tip on slowly.
9. Trim the nail tip with the tip cutter.
10. Using a medium to fine grit file or buffing block file, smooth the contact area down until it is flush with the natural nail bed. **WORK CAREFULLY** so as not to damage the natural nail.
11. Use an abrasive to shape the new, longer nail.
12. Complete the manicure with an additional overlay as the tips themselves are not strong enough to wear alone.

NAIL TIP REMOVAL (p. 882-883)

1. Place enough acetone in a small glass bowl to cover nails. Soak for a few minutes.
2. Use a pusher to slide off the softened nail tip. **DO NOT PRY THE NAIL OFF.** If the nail is still adhered, have the client soak the nail again until the tip is easily removed.
3. Gently buff the natural nail with a fine buffer to remove any adhesive residue.
4. Reapply the tip if the client desires. Otherwise, proceed with the desired service.
5. Complete the manicure.

NAIL WRAPS (p. 876-878)

- **Nail Wrap-** any method of securing a layer of fabric or paper on or around the nail tip to ensure its strength and durability
 - **Nail wrap resin-** used to coat and secure fabric wraps to the natural nail; made from cyanoacrylate, an acrylic monomer that has excellent adhesion to the natural nail
 - **Fabric wrap-** nail wrap made of silk, linen, or fiberglass; very durable; cut to cover the surface of the natural nail and the nail tip
 - **Silk wraps-** made from a thin, natural material with a tight weave that becomes transparent when wrap resin is applied; lightweight with a smooth appearance
 - **Linen wraps-** made from a closely woven, heavy material; thicker and bulkier than other wraps; adhesives do not penetrate it easily; opaque so it must have a color used over it; considered the strongest fabric wrap
 - **Fiberglass wraps-** made from a very thin synthetic mesh with a loose weave; allows adhesive to penetrate which improves adhesion; creates a durable nail enhancement
 - **Paper wraps-** temporary nail wraps made of very thin paper; quite simple to use but do not have the strength and durability of fabric wraps
- **Wrap resin accelerator (activator)-** acts as the dryer that speeds up the hardening process of the wrap resin or adhesive overlay; come in several forms (brush-on bottle, pump spray-on, aerosol)

NAIL WRAP APPLICATION (p. 884-886)

1. Remove existing polish.
2. Push back the eponychium and remove the cuticle.
3. Lightly buff the nail plate with a medium grit adhesive to remove shine caused by oil found on the natural nail plate. **DO NOT USE A COARSE FILE. DO NOT APPLY PRESSURE.** If using nail tips, use your abrasive to shape the free edges of the natural nail plate to match the shape of the nail tip to the stop point. Remove dust with a clean, dry, disinfected nail brush.
4. 4. Spray or wipe nail dehydrator on the nail plate. This will remove moisture from the surface and help improve adhesion.
5. Apply nail tips if desired.
6. Before removing the backing on the fabric, cut it to the approximate shape and width of the nail plate.
7. Apply a layer of wrap resin over the entire surface of the nail and tip. Remember to keep the adhesive off the skin. Apply wrap to all ten fingers beginning with the left pinky and then return to the first finger and apply wrap fabric.
8. Remove the backing from the fabric. **BE CAREFUL** that oil from your fingers does not contaminate the adhesive side of the fabric. Gently fit the fabric over the nail plate covering the entire nail (you may use tweezers if you like). Keep the fabric 1/16" away from the sidewall and eponychium. Use a small piece of thick plastic to press the fabric on to the nail and to smooth it out.
9. Use small scissors to trim fabric 1/16" away from the sidewall and free edge. Trimming fabric slightly smaller than the nail plate prevents the fabric from lifting and separating from the nail plate.
10. 10. Draw a thin coat of resin down the center of the nail using the extender tip of the brush. **DO NOT TOUCH THE SKIN.** The wrap resin will penetrate the fabric and adhere to the nail surface. Use the plastic again to make sure the wrap resin is evenly distributed and there are no bubbles or areas of bare fabric.
11. 11. Wrap resin accelerator will help the wrap resin dry more quickly. Spray, brush, or drop the accelerator that is designed for the product you are using. Keep the accelerator off the skin.
12. Apply and spread a second coat of wrap resin. And seal free edge to prevent lifting.
13. Apply a second coat of wrap resin accelerator.
14. Use a medium grit (240) abrasive to shape and refine the nail wrap.
15. Apply nail oil and buff to a high shine with a fine (350) grit buffer. **DO NOT BUFF TOO LONG** or you may wear through the wrap and weaken it.
16. Apply hand lotion and massage the arm.
17. Remove traces of oil so the polish will adhere.
18. Polish the nails.

NAIL WRAP MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, and REMOVAL (p.877-878)

- **Maintenance**- the term used for when a nail enhancement needs to be serviced after two or more weeks from the initial application of the product
 - **Accomplishes two goals**
 - Allows the cosmetologist to apply enhancement product to the new growth (commonly called fill or backfill)
 - Allows the cosmetologist to structurally correct the nail to ensure its strength, shape, and durability commonly called rebalance
- **Fabric wrap repair**- small pieces of fabric (a **stress strip**) is cut to 1/8” in length and applied to a weak point of the nail during the four-week wrap maintenance; a **repair patch** is a piece of fabric cut to completely cover a crack or break in the nail
- **Fabric wrap removal**- immerse the entire nail enhancement in a glass bowl filled with acetone; wait for the nail wrap to melt and then gently and carefully slide the wrap material away from the nail with a wooden pusher; suggest a manicure to rehydrate the natural nail and cuticle

TWO-WEEK FABRIC MAINTENANCE (p. 887-888)

1. Use a non-acetone polish to remove existing nail polish.
2. Clean the natural nails.
3. Push back the eponychium.
4. Lightly buff the surface of the exposed nail plate to remove oily shine.
5. Remove dust with a clean, dry nylon brush and apply nail dehydrator to the nails. Begin with little finger on the left hand and work toward the thumb. Repeat on the right hand.
6. Apply a small amount of nail wrap resin to the area of new growth. Spread.
7. Apply wrap resin accelerator.
8. Apply second coat of nail wrap resin.
9. Apply second coat of wrap resin accelerator.
10. Use medium-fine abrasive to remove any high spots or other imperfections.
11. Apply nail oil and buff to a high shine with a fine buffer.
12. Apply lotion and massage the hand and arm.
13. Remove traces of oil. Use non-acetone polish remover to eliminate traces of oil from the nail.
14. Polish the nails.



FOUR-WEEK FABRIC WRAP MAINTENANCE (p. 889-891)

1. Use non-acetone polish remover to remove existing polish.
2. Clean the natural nails.
3. Push back the eponychium.
4. Lightly buff the nails with a medium grit adhesive to remove the shine and remove any small pieces of fabric that may have lifted. Buff the end of the wrap until smooth. Carefully refine the nail until there is not line of demarcation between the new growth and the fabric wrap.
5. Remove the dust with a clean, dry nylon nail brush and apply nail dehydrator. Begin with little finger on the left hand and move towards the thumb. Repeat on the right hand.
6. Cut a piece of fabric large enough to cover the new growth area and to slightly overlay the old wrap fabric.
7. Apply a small amount of wrap resin and spread throughout new growth area.
8. Gently fit fabric over new growth area and smooth.
9. Apply another small amount to wrap resin to regrowth area.
10. Apply wrap resin accelerator.
11. Apply a second coat of wrap resin to the regrowth area.
12. Apply a second coat of wrap resin accelerator.
13. Apply a thin coat of wrap resin to the entire nail to strengthen and seal the wrap.
14. Apply wrap resin accelerator.
15. Use medium-fine abrasive to remove any high spots or other imperfections.
16. Apply nail oil and buff.
17. Apply hand lotion and massage the hand and arm.
18. Use non-acetone nail polish remover to eliminate all traces of oil so the polish will adhere.
19. Complete manicure.

FABRIC WRAP REMOVAL (p.892-893)

1. Place enough acetone in a small glass bowl to cover the nail wrap. Immerse client fingertips in the bowl, making sure the wraps are covered. Soak for a few minutes. The acetone should be about ½” above the wraps.
2. Use a pusher to slide the softened wraps away from the nail plate.
3. Gently buff natural nails with a fine buffer to remove the wrap resin.
4. Condition the skin around the nail plate with natural nail oils or lotions designed for this purpose.
5. Proceed to the desired service.