





NHBF ALLERGY ALERT QUESTIONNAIRE PROTOCOL



The following questions are designed to help you judge when an allergy alert test is required:

QUESTIONS		ANSWER	ACTION
Q1	Is your client under 16?	YES	<p> If the answer to any of these questions is YES, you must STOP and advise that you cannot continue with the colour application. Suggest the client seeks medical advice. Record GP's consent (if given).</p>
Q2	Has your client ever had an allergic reaction to hair colour?	YES	
Q3	Has your client got a sensitive, irritated or damaged scalp?	YES	
Q4	Has your client had any type of skin tattoo, including a temporary 'black henna' tattoo or permanent make-up, since their last colour?	YES	<p> If the answer to any of these questions is YES this means CAUTION, and you must advise the client you need to carry out an allergy alert test.</p>
Q5	Is this the first time your client has had their hair coloured in this salon/ barbershop?	YES	
Q6	Has your client had an allergic reaction to any products except hair colour since their last colour?	YES	
Q7	<p>Existing client checks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it more than six months since their last colour (self or professional)? Is it more than six months since their last allergy alert test? Has the client had a tattoo, henna or black henna tattoo or permanent make-up since their last colour? Has the client had an allergic reaction to any products except hair colour since their last colour? 	YES	
Q8	Are you changing hair colour brand (manufacturer) or product range (a different product from the same manufacturer)?	YES	<p> If YES, you must carry out and RECORD relevant tests and RECORD the change you are making.</p>
Q1 to Q8		NO TO ALL QUESTIONS	
If the client has a reaction to the allergy alert test			<p> No colour</p>

THE ALLERGY ALERT QUESTIONNAIRE PROTOCOLS



You must carry out an allergy alert test on existing clients **every six months** (previously, this was every 12 months).

- You must always carry out an allergy alert test if you change:
 - The product/brand.
 - The manufacturer.
- Allergy alert tests must be carried out no less than **48 hours** before the treatment or service.
- The **maximum amount of time allowed between an allergy alert test and the treatment or service** will vary depending on the product manufacturer's instructions and protocols which must always be followed.
- Allergy alert tests and colour treatments must **not be carried out on under-16s**.
- **Do I need to do a separate AAT for each shade from the same brand?**
The composition of hair dye ingredients can vary a lot between shades, even from the same brand. The manufacturer will indicate if a test for each shade is required, and if multiple allergy alert tests can be carried out at the same time. You must refer to the manufacturer's instructions or protocol.
- Recognised industry tests must be carried out **before every service or treatment on both new and existing clients**, this includes **allergy alert tests** (as per the NHBF AAT questionnaire protocol), **test cuttings (strand test)**, **sensitivity tests/ client comfort, sensation/reaction tests and hair characteristics tests** (hair density, hair texture, hair elasticity, hair porosity, hair condition). Test results should be recorded and attached to the client record card.
- You must **keep a written record of every test for at least six years**. Each written record must be signed by the hair and beauty professional and the client.