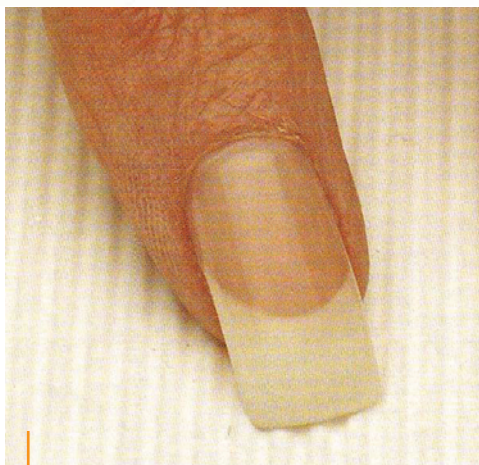




How do I apply gel sealer? Your technical questions answered!



Traditional gel nails can only be removed by filing.

Is there another way to take gel nails off other than filing them, which takes quite a bit of time?

For traditional gels, no, there is not an alternate method than filing. The surface becomes virtually non-porous when cured, so acetone or removers cannot penetrate it. There are softer gels on the market that will allow the product to be soaked off, such as Biosculpt and the new IBD Soak Off Gel. — **MaeLing Parrish is an international master artist educator for EZ Flow Nail Systems.**



When airbrushing, make sure the paint is dry when it hits the nail.

Sometimes I airbrush the white for a French manicure look. The problem is when I put the top coat on, the white seems to crackle and dosent

doesn't last. How do I solve this problem?

There are a couple of ways to solve that problem.

The problem could be you are airbrushing too wet. The airbrush paint should be dry when it hits the nail. If it's glossy at all, then when you put sealer on it, it will tend to crack the airbrush paint.

Another reason could be the top coat itself — some can cause it to crack or chip. So experiment a bit with the top coat to see which one works best with the product. — **Julie Kellos is a Clearfield, Utah-based independent airbrush artist and nail educator.**

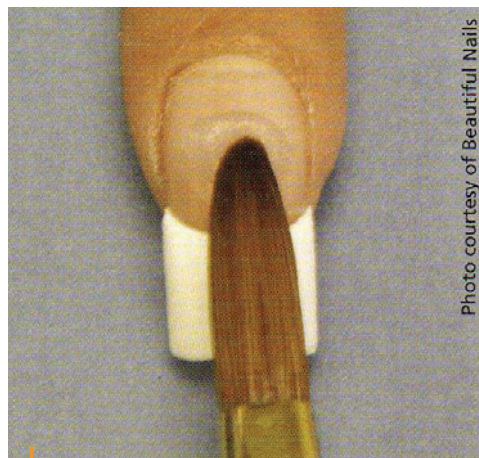


Photo courtesy of Beautiful Nails

Temperature can affect the way acrylic sets up.

My salon is kept very cold both in the summer and winter. My acrylic doesn't seem to set up good when it's very cold. Does temperature have an effect on the way acrylic sets up? And, how do I avoid this problem?

Temperature has an effect on most types of services performed in the salon. That's why hairstylists will often put clients under a hair dryer,

not to dry the hair, but to speed up action of the chemical service. The reverse is true, as well. Most chemical reactions happen more quickly when warmed and slow down dramatically when cooler. This is true for all artificial nail products.

For this reason, it's best to keep the salon (and products) between 68°-72°F. At lower temperatures, artificial nail products will set much more slowly and may not be as durable. You can find more about the chemistry behind artificial nail products in my book *Nail Structure & Product Chemistry-Second Edition, 2005*, Thomson Learning. — **Doug Schoon is vice president of science and technology for Creative Nail Design (Vista, Calif.).**



It's best to apply gel sealer like polish or a top coat, ensuring it is distributed evenly.

How do I properly apply gel sealer (in detail, please)?

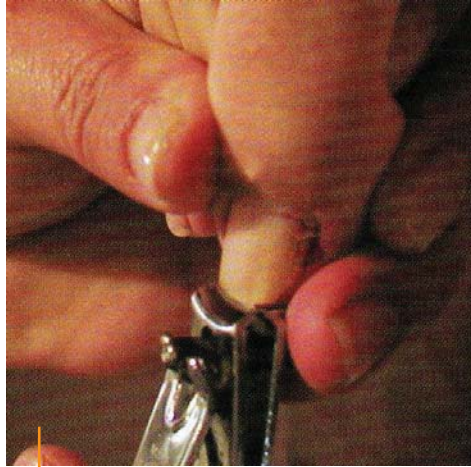
The most important thing when applying gel sealer is to ensure the nail is free of dust. If dust is present, it can cause pitting when cured. It is best to apply sealer to four nails on one hand then while its curing, apply

the sealer to the opposite hand and allow it to cure. Then do the thumbs together. If all 10 are applied at the same time, gravity will do its job and cause the sealer to be uneven.

Another cause for pitting is applying the sealer too thin. When gel cures, it shrinks; therefore, if the application is too thin, it will leave pits. The best way to apply gel sealer is to apply it like polish or top coat, ensuring it is distributed evenly, remembering to cap the free edge and lower arches. — **MaeLing Parrish**

What is the proper way to treat an ingrown toenail during a pedicure?

If the area around the ingrown nail is not infected (red, swollen, or has pus) it can be gently treated by the pedicurist. The hardened skin at the area



If the area around an ingrown toenail isn't infected, it can be gently treated by a pedicurist.

needs to be trimmed and the nail needs to be gently trimmed to straighten out the curl that has started in the nail. You can only safely trim what you can see. If the nail appears too deeply embedded, the client

needs to see the podiatrist first to get the deeper portion out.

When the ingrown nail is from the big toe being pressed by the second toe (like a foot with a bad bunion), I opt for gentle, straight trimming back, leaving no nail to grow in. The hard skin is usually what hurts more, not the nail. If the client is a regular, she might want to try a nail softening agent every day. I treat extremely thick nails with Keralac Gel (prescription), which is 50% uric acid. There are others that are over the counter with lactic acid, uric acid, or salicylic acid that work very well.

— **Johanna Youner is a New York City-based podiatrist and director of the podiatry clinic at New York University Downtown Hospital.**