

MMA

WHAT IS IT?

Methyl methacrylate, otherwise known as MMA, is a bonding agent used in some artificial nail products making it set much faster and adhere stronger to the nail than other products.

MMA exposure has been linked to adverse health effects including dermal toxicity and respiratory tract effects.

QUICK FACTS

After receiving complaints of injury associated with the use of artificial nails containing MMA in the 1970s, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) removed products containing 100% MMA from the market.

MMA is cheaper in comparison to other agents which is why it is still used.

Arizona Administrative Code R4-10-112(M) prohibits the use of products containing hazardous substances banned by the FDA from being used in a salon or school.

HOW TO DETERMINE IF YOU ARE BEING EXPOSED

- It has a strong irritating chemical odor that does not smell like other acrylic liquids.
- The product sets much harder, feels less flexible and is very difficult to file using a nail file.
- Acrylic nails that contain MMA are extremely hard or virtually impossible to remove using normal solvents.

HEALTH RISKS

METHYL METHACRYLATE (MMA) CAN:



Affect you when you breathe it in.

Damage a developing fetus.

Irritate the eyes, skin, nose and throat if you come in contact with it.

Irritate the lungs causing coughing and/or shortness of breath if breathed in. Higher exposures can cause a build-up of fluid in the lungs (pulmonary edema), a medical emergency, with severe shortness of breath.

Cause dizziness, irritability, difficulty with concentration and reduced memory.

Cause a skin allergy.

Damage the nervous system causing numbness, "pins and needles," and/or weakness in the hands and feet.



MMA is a flammable and reactive chemical and a fire and explosion hazard.

IF YOU BELIEVE A NAIL SALON IS USING MMA, PLEASE FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE ARIZONA BARBERING & COSMETOLOGY BOARD.