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Helpful Tips for Barbershops¹

1. Licenses must be posted (copies are acceptable)
2. There can only be 3 apprentices to a master barber in each shop
3. Shop should be clean and sanitary (brooms, mops, and anything used to wash the floor must be stored after use)
4. No sleeping quarters in a shop
5. There must be running hot and cold water
6. Must have a bathroom with a sink
7. Must have a separate sink for hand washing outside of the bathroom sink
8. Must have proper lighting and ventilation
9. The headrest of a barber chair must be covered with a fresh clean cloth or paper before servicing each new client
10. Towels must be kept in an enclosed area
11. No shaving brushes are permitted.
12. Must have at least 3 hairbrushes stored in an enclosed cabinet
13. Cannot display or use any hair tonics without a manufacturer label
14. All jars with creams or pomades must be covered unless being used, and spatulas must be cleaned for each client.

¹ These are not the official regulations, which can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/hd/regulations/rules-and-regs/cmr-232-201.html>.



15. No paper with print can be used to wipe razors (must be clean paper, not newspaper).
16. No cake or stick soap may be used.
17. Must sterilize tools after every client (must clean the tools first and then sterilize them).
18. Tools must be enclosed after sterilization.
19. All barbers must act in a professional manner.
20. All barbershops should have a copy of the rules and regulations available at all times. If you do not have a copy, you can obtain one by calling (617) 727-2834, or by downloading a copy at <http://www.mass.gov/ocabr/licensee/dpl-boards/hd/regulations/>.
21. Neck dusters are allowed in barbershops for use on skin only and not on clothes.
22. Styptic pencils are not allowed to stop bleeding from a cut. You may use styptic powder only.
23. Barbershops may only employ barbers licensed in Massachusetts.
24. All barber shops must display a sign or barber pole at the entrance to the barber shop indicating that it is a barbershop.