



# TITAN WORLDWIDE INC.

Ti-tan (ttn) n.  
One that is gigantic in size or power. One that stands out for  
greatness of achievement

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## Personal Service Establishments

How clean is your establishment and equipment? Are you protecting yourself and your clients? We live in a very different world than we did just a short time ago. S.A.R.S, Norwalk, B.S.E and West Nile have made people take a closer look at many aspects of their lives. Although Health and Safety has always been a concern, it is only now that the general population is taking a greater interest and becoming more educated and aware of personal precautions.

Due to these problems, a lot more attention and investigation is being done in the hospitality and Personal Service Establishment (PSE's) market to ensure that the dangers are recognized and the proper steps are taken to protect both patrons and shop owners.

A recent study done by the American Council on Health and Science stated that "the possibility of infection from the tools and equipment provided by the salon, if not properly sanitized, is a serious health threat". This report was backed up by a report in the New England Journal of Medicine (May 2002) that covered an incident where 110 people contracted a bacterial infection after receiving footbaths and pedicures. Bacterial infections do not respond well to antibiotics and can leave scars.

Bacterial and fungal infections are not the only type of infections that can be transmitted in a salon setting. In May 2003, in Colorado, a woman was awarded over \$3.1 million when she contracted Herpes through the use of non-sterile manicuring tools.

With the existence of blood-borne diseases such as HIV and Herpes, which can live outside the body, the Personal Service Industry should be diligently disinfecting and sterilizing tools and equipment. Highly concentrated HIV has been detectable outside the body after drying for one to three days; and Hepatitis B and C can live outside the body for a few days to a week. Therefore, a high level disinfectant should be used.

All tools used in the industry should be soaked for at least ten minutes in a high level disinfectant with bacterial, fungicidal and viricidal activity after every use. Manicure tables, pedicure chairs, massage tables, and tanning booths should also be disinfected with this level of product. Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, it is the responsibility of the employer and employee to take "every precaution reasonable".