

## What does it take to become a **NAIL TECHNICIAN?**

A nail technician is a beauty specialist who is responsible for the grooming and appearance of a client's fingernails and toenails. He or she provides manicures, pedicures, nail shaping, cuticle grooming, callus removal, synthetic nail treatments, and application of nail polish for their clients. A nail technician trims, shapes, files and polishes nails, as well as applies tips or wraps to nails. They massage hands and feet, apply lotions and airbrush nail art. Some nail technicians sell products used during nail services directly to clients, earning commission on each sale. Evening and weekend hours are common for nail technicians, who usually work in salons or spas.

### **Skills & Knowledge**

High school courses in arts and drawing are considered useful. Nail technicians need good visual acuity for detailed work. Nail technician professions require physical stamina since they must sit, stand and spend hours hunched over working on clients' hands and feet. Solid customer service and sales skills are essential, as the satisfaction of the client is the number one priority of nail technicians.



### **Training**

Training is offered at registered training institutions. However, many makeup artists typically learn the trade on the job and through apprenticeships in salons and beauty parlours. Industry experience, whether paid or unpaid, is crucial to honing skills, building a reputation and ultimately developing a solid client base. Nail technicians study basic cosmetology skills, health and safety procedures, manicure and pedicure skills and skin treatments, as well as general business skills. They participate

in continuing education opportunities to learn new developments in nail treatments and applications, like acrylic, gel or fiberglass nails, sculpting, airbrushing and nail art.

### **Working Conditions**

Nail technicians generally work as an employee or an independent contractor renting space from the spa or salon owner. Self-employed nail technicians handle salon management, hiring, inventory, marketing and bookkeeping. The starting pay for apprentices and novices is less than what fully trained nail technicians make. As apprentices gain experience, they receive more pay. Many nail technicians opt to freelance and are able to build up loyal support through rendering personalised service. Weekends are especially busy considering that most social events take place then.

### **Job Prospects**

Some skills necessary to work as a Nail Technician will allow you to work in another profession as well. In addition to styling, coloring and cutting hair, cosmetologists also offer makeup application services. Skincare Specialists specialize in the care and treatment of the skin and often prepare the skin prior to the application of makeup. Most makeup artists freelance. Compensation varies, but those with established clientele tend to earn more. The best job opportunities can be found in the urban centres.

You too can live your passion and qualify as a Nail Technician. If you are creative, personable, detail-oriented and knowledgeable of cosmetology and beauty trends, you are a good candidate.

This insert is brought to you by the Namibia Training Authority under its 'Live Your Passion' advocacy campaign. To learn more about other technical and vocational career options, visit our website:

**[www.nta.com.na](http://www.nta.com.na)**

*'Live Your Passion' is supported by the European Union.*



**Scan here**  
to watch the  
industry feature