

Setting up a hairdresser or barber shop



Rules for exempt and complying development



Change of use of premises to a hairdresser or barber shop as complying development

This document answers frequently asked questions about opening a hairdressing salon or barber shop and explains the relevant planning provisions set out in the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (State Policy).

Do I need planning approval to change the use of a premises to a hairdressing salon or barber shop?

You can get planning approval by applying for a complying development certificate. The State Policy allows the change of use of a business premises, office premises or shop to a business premises as complying development when the development meets specific criteria. The State Policy also permits a change of use from a food and drink premises, kiosk, medical centre, veterinary hospital or tertiary institution.

A '[business premises](#)' is a place where a profession occurs, providing a service to the public on a regular basis, such as hairdressers, beauty salons and barber shops.

Things to consider	
✓	Skin penetration procedures – notify council
✓	Regulated by Public Health Act 2010 and Public Health Regulation 2012— speak with NSW Health
✓	Regulated by council and Hairdressers Act 2003
✓	Water supply or sewerage services – approval from water utility, relevant council, or both
✓	<p>COUNCIL APPROVAL OR PERMIT FOR THE FOLLOWING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pruning or removing a tree • stormwater drainage connection under Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 • signage projecting over a footway or public road under Section 138 of the Roads Act 1993
Restrictions	
	Refer to the State Policy for any land-based exclusions or local variations that may apply to the land

You should read this fact sheet in conjunction with our [Exempt and complying development – FAQs](#)

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What specific criteria apply to the change of use of a premise to a hairdresser or barber shop?

[Clause 5.4](#) of the State Policy sets out the full list of development standards that you must fully satisfy before you can start your hairdresser, beauty salon or barber shop.

Development standards are criteria that manage the impacts of your business, including the Building Code of Australia requirements you must follow.

Do I need to make sure council allows my hairdresser or barber shop under existing planning controls?

Yes. The use must be permissible with consent under an environmental planning instrument that applies to the land. A council's local environmental plan is one such environmental planning instrument.

The land use table within the local environmental plan must state that council permits business premises with consent. If you are unsure, contact your local council for help determining whether it permits your business premises.

Does the premises' previous use need to be lawful?

Yes, the previous use needs to be lawful. A consent authority must have previously issued a development consent or complying development certificate. You can get a copy of the previous approval from your local council.

Councils can release certain information relating to a site, such as development consents, construction certificates, occupation certificates, plans and reports, subject to copyright restrictions. The public can review these documents for free and you can get copies for a reasonable photocopying fee.

The previous use must not be an existing use as defined in [Section 4.65](#) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. An 'existing use' is one that a previous environmental planning instrument allowed and approved but that the government would no longer consider permissible since the start of a new environmental planning instrument.

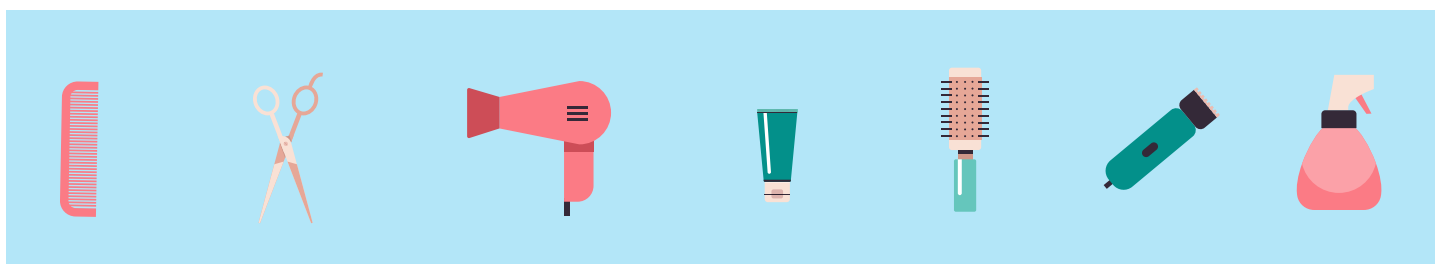
If existing consent conditions apply to the site, must I follow these?

Your new salon or barber shop must follow the most recent council approval that applies to the premises. This includes conditions relating to matters such as hours of operation, noise, car parking, loading, vehicular movement, traffic generation, waste management and landscaping.

What car parking must I provide at the premises?

You must provide car parking to comply with any existing condition relating to parking for the site. If no condition exists, you must provide parking for the site that complies with local council's parking requirements.

Council's local environmental plan or development control plan may contain this information. Some councils require you to contribute for parking. If this is the case, the council's customer-service staff can help you with this.



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What else do I need to consider for my salon or barber shop?

You need to check whether the building is suitable for occupation and use according to the Building Code of Australia classification.

Also, if you propose to increase the area of the premises, the fire resistance performance of the buildings must meet Building Code of Australia standards. To change the use of a premises to a hairdressing salon or barber shop?

Do I need any other licences or approvals?

A salon that conducts procedures that penetrate the skin must comply with Public Health Regulation 2012. You may also need to register with your local council for regular inspections.

Examples of procedures that penetrate the skin include microdermabrasion, hair removal (not threading or hair removal using tweezers or a laser), and drilling and filing for artificial nails. Contact NSW Health or your local council for more information.

Should I seek professional help with my application?

We encourage you to engage a professional town planner and building designer who can help you make sure your proposal meets the required development standards. When your plans fully comply with these standards, you can lodge your application with your local council or private certifier.

Do I need to engage a certifier?

You will need to appoint a principal certifier to approve your complying development certificate. You can find more information about finding and appointing a certifier on the [NSW Fair Trading website](#).

What happens once I lodge my application?

Once you have lodged your application, either your local council or an accredited certifier will assess it. If your development meets the specific development standards, they can approve your complying development certificate in as few as 20 days.

The certifier will register the complying development certificate on the NSW Planning Portal, and your local council will be notified accordingly.

Did you know?



Signage for your business may not require approval. Please refer to the [Advertising and Signage](#) page on the NSW Planning Portal for more information on installing signs as exempt development.

More information



Contact the Codes Hotline.

Tel: 13 77 88

Email: codes@planning.nsw.gov.au

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