



## Warning Regarding Chemicals Used in Popular “Brazilian Blowout”

Minneapolis, MN, May 2, 2011—The MN Board of Cosmetologist Examiners would like to inform the public, licensees, and consumers of a treatment involving hair-smoothing products, sometimes referred to as “Keratin Treatments” or “Brazilin Blowouts” that has been recently in the news and is being offered as a service at Minnesota salons.

The “Brazilian Blowout” is a hair straightening treatment that has seen a recent surge of popularity in Minnesota. It is a chemical hair-straightening process similar to hair relaxing. According to federal OSHA, the chemical used to relax the hair has been found to often contain formaldehyde, which can present a health hazard if you are exposed.

The MN Department of Health on April 20, 2011 ([click here for news release](#)) released a warning on potential risks of formaldehyde exposure. According to the news release, risks include possible eye, nose and throat irritation breathing difficulties such as wheezing, coughing and asthma; headache; fatigue; skin rash; severe allergic reactions. Formaldehyde may also increase risk of cancer, in particular nasal cancer.

According to Federal OSHA, they have found formaldehyde in the air when stylists used hair-smoothing products, some of which do not have formaldehyde listed on their labels or in material safety data sheets as required by law.

OSHA recommends that salon owners use products that do not contain formaldehyde, methylene glycol, formalin, methylene oxide, paraform, formic aldehyde, methanal, oxomethane, oxymethylene or Chemical Abstract Service Number 50-00-0.

The products with the highest percentage of formaldehyde, as tested by either Oregon OSHA or Health Canada, include:

*Brazilian Blowout Acai Professional Smoothing solution “Formaldehyde Free” (8.8 percent)*

*Brazilian Blowout Solution (8.0 percent)*

*Brazilian Gloss Keratin Smoothing Gloss (7.3 percent)*

*Brazilian Thermal Reconstruction by Cadiveu (7.0 percent)*

*Global Keratin Taming System with Juvexin Strawberry Resistant by Global Keratin (4.4 percent)*

*Global Keratin Taming System Strawberry by Global Keratin (3.0 percent)*

*Pro-Collagen RX Keratin Treatment (2.8 percent)*

*IStraight Keratin (Advanced Keratin Treatment) by IBS Beauty (2.3 percent)*

*Chocolate, extreme de-frizzing treatment (2.0 percent)*

Additional products can be found on the [Health Canada Website](#) and [Oregon OSHA's Website](#).

The Board of Cosmetologist Examiners encourages all salons, stylists, and consumers to educate themselves regarding these treatments before offering them or receiving them. The Minnesota Department of Health advises the following precautions:

*It is best to avoid the use of products that contain formaldehyde. If salons cannot find an acceptable product without formaldehyde, the first line of protection should be implementation of engineering controls. Local ventilation is the most common engineering control to use. Hair treatments that require the use of irritating chemicals such as formaldehyde should be carried out in well-ventilated areas.*

*Employees should also know the location of the nearest eyewash and safety shower, where spill cleanup materials are kept, and carefully read all labels and material safety data sheets before using chemicals. And they should never eat or drink near chemicals, and always wash their hands well with soap and water after using chemicals, even when wearing gloves.*

*Finally, personal protective equipment should be considered when using chemicals. At a minimum, workers should use a work apron or lab coat, safety glasses or goggles and/or face shield, and gloves. Gloves should be made of nitrile or butyl rubber, as latex gloves will offer little protection.*

For more information visit: [www.bceboard.state.mn.us](http://www.bceboard.state.mn.us).

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