

EST 21

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**Esthetician – Skin Care Technician  
Lash and Brow Tints**

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# Lash and Brow Tints

## Rationale

*Why is it important to learn this skill?*

Lash and brow tinting is a service that seems to be unique in the way that it perfectly suits the needs of many clients. Tinting is safe and non-invasive, which suits the personality of conservative clients. Unlike more enduring treatments such as microblading, tinting only lasts 4-6 weeks. If a client is unsure of the results, desires a new look to keep up with trends, or wants a different effect, they can re-tint. Both tinting and eyelash extensions can save a client time during their makeup regimen, but tinting lasts longer, requires less care, and is less expensive than eyelash extensions. Because of the enduring nature of tinting, it is important to learn this skill.

## Outcome

*When you have completed this module, you will be able to:*

Safely perform an effective lash and brow tint.

## Objectives

1. Describe preparing clients for eyelash and eyebrow tinting.
2. Describe the safety precautions related to selecting, preparing, and applying tinting products.
3. Describe selecting, preparing, and applying tinting products.
4. Describe testing tinting results.
5. Demonstrate eyelash and eyebrow tinting.

## Introduction

Tinting lashes and brows is a service that accentuates a feature that already exists. Tinting can be used to match lighter coloured lashes and brows to a darker hair colour. Tinting can also equalize the colouring along the entire length of the hair, and make the colour along the whole eyebrow line uniform.

# Objective One

*When you have completed this objective, you will be able to:*

Describe preparing clients for eyelash and eyebrow tinting.

## The Client Consultation

Preparing a client for a lash and brow tint begins with the client consultation. Some literature states that the client consultation must occur 24 hours before the service, while other sources state that 48 hours is the minimum time. This long delay between consultation and service is to allow for a patch sensitivity test (PST), which is discussed later in this Objective.

During the consultation it is important to have a clear, common understanding between the esthetician and the client regarding what services will be performed (and not performed), costs, and desired outcome. Impress upon the client that a lash and brow tint will only accentuate a pre-existing feature. A lash tint will darken the full length and breadth of the existing lashes, but it will not make the lashes longer or thicker. See EST 4 and 5 for complete consultation details. It is important to ask the client if they have any sensitivities to makeup. A sensitivity to makeup, henna, or hair colour containing para-phenylenediamine (PPD), may indicate a sensitivity to the tinting chemicals.

In relation to the PST, the client consultation card (ccc) must include:

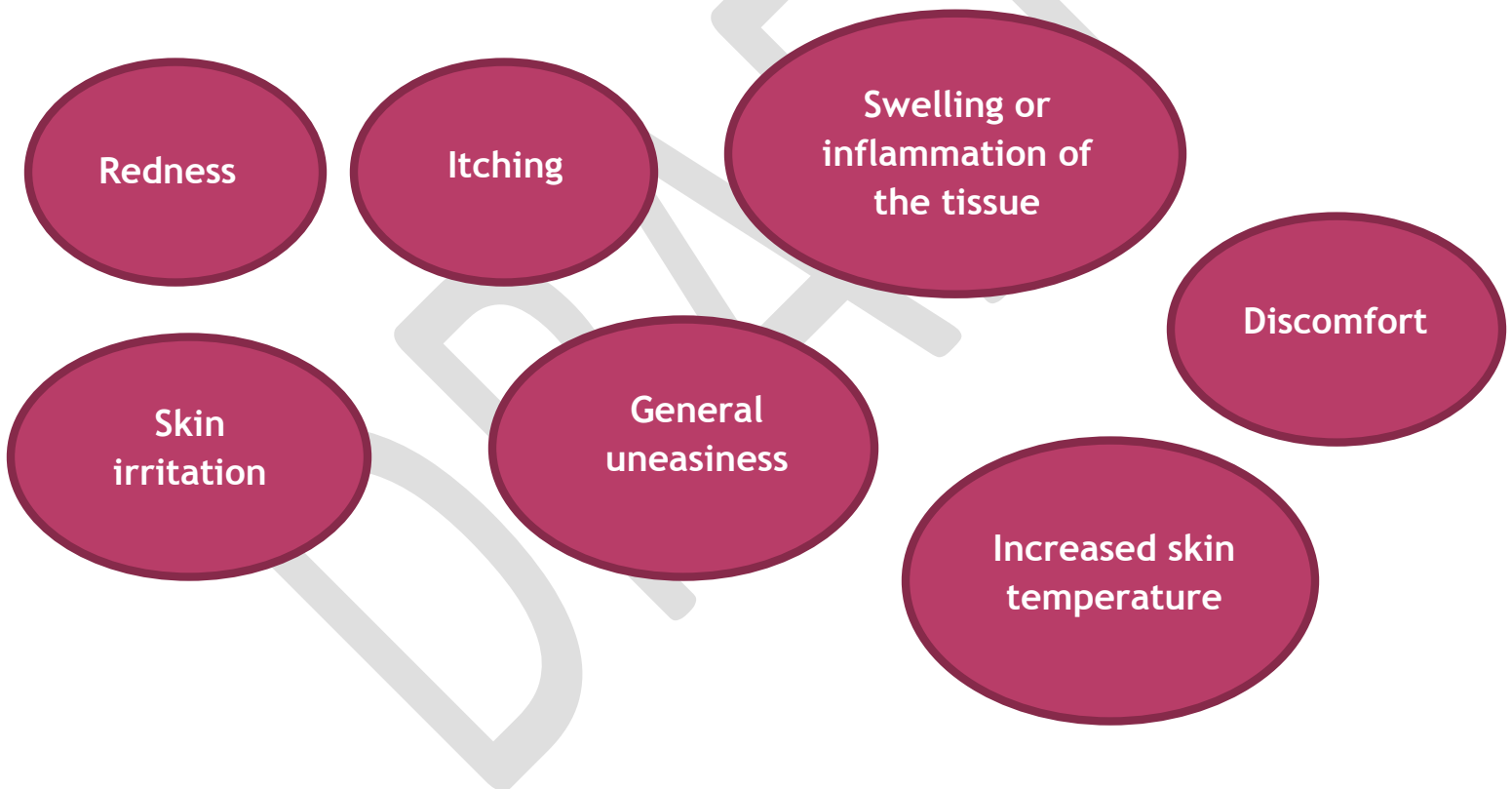
Date of sensitivity test	Areas tested
Brand of chemical used	Results of the sensitivity test
Length of contact time	Aftercare advice provided

## The Patch Sensitivity Test

The PST is extremely important, because an intense allergic reaction around the eyes can cause short term or long term damage to the eyes. Clients who are taking medication and those who are pregnant may be extra-susceptible to an allergic reaction.

Always follow the sanitation, disinfection, and sterilization procedures outlined in EST 1. To make the test, a small area of skin behind the ear or on the inner surface of the forearm should be cleansed, using either soap and water or alcohol, and a small quantity of the tint as prepared for use should be applied to the area (about 1 cm by 1cm) and allowed to dry. After 24 hours, the area should be washed gently with soap and water. If no irritation or inflammation is apparent, it may be assumed that no hypersensitivity to the tint exists. The test should be made before each application.

*Even if a client does not react to a PST, they may still react to the chemicals used for a lash and brow tint.*



Instruct the client to leave the tint on the skin for 24-48 hours; after that time has expired, they can wash off the tint. Instruct the client to wash the area with soap and warm running water if a reaction occurs after the client has left the salon. If a reaction occurs, advise the client to contact a medical professional. Once a client has shown an allergic reaction to a chemical, never re-expose them to the same chemical, and be very cautious when exposing them to a chemical of the same structure.



## **PPE and Precautions**

When performing a lash and brow tint, always follow the manufacturer's specifications, and wear appropriate PPE. PPE may include: eye protection, latex or rubber gloves, and an apron.

Cotton is the preferred material for lash and brow tinting. Cotton has good absorptive properties, and will not scratch the skin as easily as some synthetic materials.

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# Objective One Self-Test

1) Which sensitivities may indicate a sensitivity to tinting chemicals?

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2) On which areas of the body are patch sensitivity tests commonly performed?

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3) True/False. A lash and brow tint will only accentuate a pre-existing feature.

4) What should be done when an esthetician changes tinting products?

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5) Why is cotton the preferred material for lash and brow tinting?

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# Objective One Self-Test Answers

- 1) A sensitivity to makeup, henna, or hair dye containing para-phenylenediamine (PPD), may indicate a sensitivity to the tinting chemicals.
- 2) Patch sensitivity tests are commonly performed on the skin in the crease of the elbow and behind the ear.
- 3) True.
- 4) Every time the esthetician changes products, a new PST must be performed on each client.
- 5) Cotton is the preferred material for lash and brow tinting because it has good absorptive properties, and will not scratch the skin as easily as some synthetic materials.

# Objective Two

*When you have completed this objective, you will be able to:*

Describe the safety precautions related to selecting, preparing, and applying tinting products.

## Contraindications

Each employer will have their own list of contraindications that prevent or restrict a service. The following is a list of common contraindications:

- Dry or flaking skin around the eyes.
- Sensitivity and/or allergy to makeup.
- Psoriasis around the eyes.
- Eczema around the eyes.
- Conjunctivitis.
- Swelling or irritation around the eyes.
- Dermatitis.
- Dry eyes.

In addition to the notes above, a client who has a difficult time keeping their eyes still may not be a suitable candidate for a lash and brow tint.

## Eye Irritation

Eye irritation caused by chemicals will often take the form of granulomas (small areas of inflamed tissue) or contact dermatitis (a rash). Eye irritation can also be caused by accidentally catching the eye during the service, or a foreign body in the eye. Foreign bodies can be tint, eyelashes, or cotton fibres. Excess hydrogen peroxide in the mixture can also cause eye irritation.

Never shape eyebrows before a tinting. Tint can soak into the follicles of recently removed hairs causing an allergic reaction. Reshaping the eyebrows will also stimulate blood flow to the hair follicles and may cause erythema (a reddening of the skin) and increased sensitivity.

## **Staining Skin**

Staining the skin occurs when tint is applied to the skin or splashed/dropped on the skin. If the barrier cream does not come close enough to the hair line, the skin can become stained between the hairline and the cream.

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# Objective Two Self-Test

1) Identify four possible contraindications that may prevent or restrict a tint:

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2) What are two general causes of eye irritation?

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3) Which two precautions can reduce the chance of staining skin?

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# Objective Two Self-Test Answers

- 1) Any of the following: dry or flaking skin around the eyes; sensitivity and/or allergy to makeup; psoriasis around the eyes; eczema around the eyes; conjunctivitis; swelling or irritation around the eyes; dermatitis; dry eyes; and difficulty keeping eyes still.
- 2) Chemicals and physical contact with the eye.
- 3) Placing barrier cream tight to the hair line and not dripping or splashing the tint.

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# Objective Three

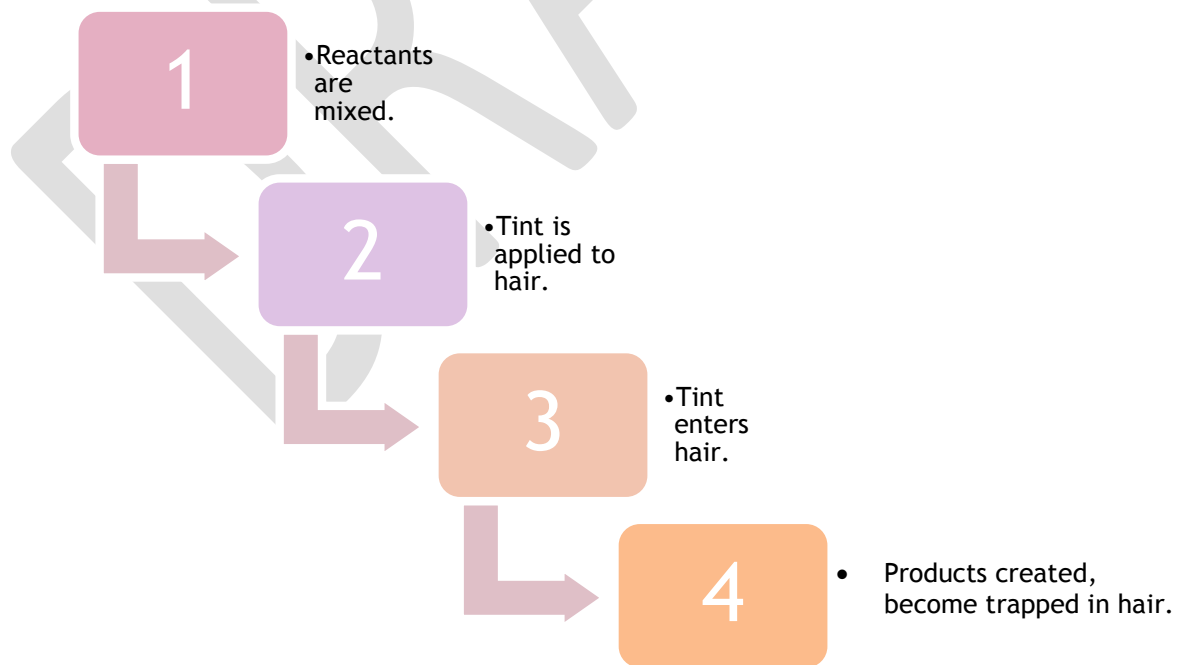
*When you have completed this objective, you will be able to:*  
Describe selecting, preparing, and applying tinting products.

## The Chemical Process

Colour tinting is achieved via a chemical reaction. **A chemical reaction involves two or more reactants interacting with each other to form one or more new substances called products.** During a chemical reaction, atoms and/or molecules move between the reactants to form new substances.

The reactants of a lash and brow tint are: colour and hydrogen peroxide. During the non-reversible chemical reaction, the hydrogen peroxide (oxidizing agent) donates oxygen to the tint (reducing agent). This process is called oxidization. The chemical reaction begins immediately and takes a short time to complete. It is necessary to work quickly.

Here is an overview of the ideal process:





If the reactants are mixed and immediately applied to the hair before oxidization occurs, the reactants enter the hair as small molecules. During oxidization, the hydrogen peroxide donates oxygen atoms to the colour, increasing the size of the colour molecules. The larger colour molecules become trapped inside the hair. If the chemical reaction is allowed complete before the reactants are applied to the hair, the molecules of the products are too large to enter the hair, and the tint will not be absorbed. Colour that has entered the hair will remain in the hair until the hair falls out.

All cosmetics sold in Canada must meet the provisions of several pieces of Canadian legislation. The two primary documents are the *Food and Drugs Act*, and the *Cosmetic Regulations*. Section 14 of the *Cosmetics Regulations* prohibits coal tar dyes from lash and brow tinting products:

**14 (1)** *No person shall sell a cosmetic for use in the area of the eye that contains any coal tar dye, coal tar dye base, or coal tar dye intermediate.*

**(2)** *For the purpose of subsection (1) and section 15.1, “area of the eye” means the area bounded by the supraorbital and infraorbital ridges and includes the eyebrows, the skin underlying the eyebrows, the eyelids, the eyelashes, the conjunctival sac of the eye, the eyeball and the soft tissue that lies below the eye and within the infraorbital ridge.*

Please note that coal tar dyes can be used in hair dyes, with restrictions (as per the *Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist*) located at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/cosmet-person/hot-list-critique/hotlist-liste-eng.php>). Para-phenylenediamine (PPD) is a coal tar dye commonly used in hair dyes, colours, and tints. Please also see *Safety of Cosmetic Ingredients* located at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/cosmet-person/labelling-etiquetage/ingredients-eng.php> for additional information on coal tar.

The colour portion of the reactants (reducing agent) is mostly derived from plant sources; however, illegal and harmful ingredients can be purchased over the internet and illegally brought into Canada and used on Canadians. Tinting shades include: black, brown, blue, and grey. The oxidizing agent is 3% peroxide, often referred to as 10-volume peroxide. 3% peroxide is about half as strong as the most commonly used hydrogen peroxide. Some manufacturer’s produce a 5% peroxide. The oxidizing

agent can come in a cream or liquid solution. Cream is a useful form, because its viscosity reduces the chances of running and dripping.

Do not mix products together unless specified by the manufacturer. Dyes for hair are not suitable for lashes and brows.

## **Cream Tints**

Cream tints are ideal for delicate and mature skin. Cream tints can produce softer colour combinations. They also present a lower risk of staining the surrounding skin. Cream tints have a more natural look than wax brow pencils.

Selecting a tint is based on the following considerations:

- Client preference.
- Skin type.
- Hair colour.
- Client age.

Brown and grey tints may be best suited for mature clients. These colours can be used individually or mixed together. As a rule of thumb, lashes and brows are tinted the same colour as hair, but slightly lighter.

## Set-Up

The following is a list of tools and materials needed for a lash and brow tint:

Instruments	Purpose
3% hydrogen peroxide	Oxidizing agent
Small glass bowl	Mixing reactants
Waste basket	
Clean, distilled water	To cleanse/flush area in case of irritation
Spatula	Mixing reactants
Brush or wooden stick	Applying products to hair
Mirror	For client to see results
Dampened cotton balls	Cleansing the eyes
Disposable tissues	
Bed and table	
Cotton eye pads	Cleansing and shielding the eyes
Makeup remover	Removing any makeup on or around the eyes. Remover must not be oil-based
Toning lotion	Must be alcohol-free
Barrier cream	Preventing tinting products from staining the skin outside of intended area
Head band	Restraining hair
Cape or towel	Protecting client's clothes from spilled tinting products
Skin stain remover	Removing tinting products from the skin outside of intended area
Small hand towel	
Disposable gloves	

The client must remove their contact lenses. Have the client lay back in a semi-reclined position and place the headband on the client. Put the cape or towel on the client to protect their clothes. Cleanse the service area by applying makeup remover, then a cleanser, and lastly a toner to remove any residual cleanser. The client keeps their eyes closed during the service, and they are never left alone.

## Barrier Creams

Barrier creams are applied to areas that are not supposed to be tinted. The barrier cream physically blocks the tint from contacting a surface. Brushes and Q-tips® are commonly used to apply the cream. A Q-tip® with a plastic core may scratch the client. Choose Q-tips® that have a pressed paper core. Consult the list below when applying a barrier cream during a brow tint.

1. Transfer the barrier cream to a disposable cup (or disinfectable dish).
2. Apply the cream to the areas around the lashes and brows.
3. Gently spread the skin with your fingers to place barrier cream in folds of skin.
4. Place dampened cotton pads over each eye.

Consult the list below when applying a barrier cream during a lash tint.

1. Separate a cotton pad into two layers.
2. Cut the pads into half-moon shapes.
3. Dampen the pads.
4. Use a small amount of barrier cream to adhere the pads above and below the lashes.

## Applying Lash Tint

The contact time for tinting products will depend upon the manufacturer's specifications; this applies to both lash and brow applications. Common contact times range between 10 – 15 minutes. Hair with red pigment and grey hair will require a longer exposure time, while blonde hair will require less time. Mix only the required amount of reactants. Apply the tinting product to the bottom lashes. Apply the tinting product from the base of the lashes out towards the tips in a gentle stroking movement. Ask the client to look upwards. Make sure that the client is not looking at a light source, since bright lights can result in discomfort and eye watering.

For the upper lashes, ask the client to close their eyes for this section of the procedure. Apply the tinting product from the base of the lashes out towards the tips in a gentle stroking movement. The applicator may need to be rolled to remove all

*Note: a common practice is to tint the upper and lower lashes at the same time; as a result, the eyes are closed for the entire application of the lash tint. It is a best practice to have the client's eyes closed the whole time, regardless of method, because the tinting chemicals cause a great deal of discomfort if they enter the eye.*

of the product from it. Lifting the eyebrows may assist in exposing the corners of the eyes, easing the application in these areas.

Cover the eyes with warm dampened cotton pads. Warmth will aid the chemical process. If the client chooses not to wear the eye pads, the tint must stay on longer.

## **Removing Lash Tint**

Remove the eye shields and eye pads quickly together in one movement capturing as much tint as possible. Quickly remove the remaining tint with dampened cotton pads. Support the skin while wiping. Wipe downwards over the lashes, starting at the outer edges and moving to the middle of the eyes. When a clean cotton pad remains clean after wiping, all of the tint has been removed. Instruct the client to open their eyes. Visually inspect the lashes and brows for excess tint. Cleanse the area with a non-alcoholic skin tonic to remove the barrier cream. Show the client the results. Confirm that they are correct. Some estheticians encourage clients to bring saline drops which can be used to flush the eyes.

## **Applying Brow Tint**

The development time for brows ranges from 1 – 10 minutes, depending upon the client and the manufacturer's specifications. This is shorter than the time for lashes. Hair with red pigment and grey hair will require a longer exposure time, while blonde hair will require less time. Multiple applications may be necessary for a successful brow tint. Brow tinting is usually performed before lash tinting, due to the critical nature of the timing. Brow hair is thinner than lash hair; as a result, brows tint faster, and it is important to focus full attention on them. Only a short window of time is available to achieve the desired results. On the other hand, lash hair is coarser than brow hair, and lash hair takes longer to tint. The window of time available to achieve the desired results is longer.

Use an eyebrow brush to separate the hairs and lift them from the skin. Apply tint to the eyebrows, working from the outside of the brow toward the inside. Make sure to apply tint to the hairs underneath.

After the initial exposure time, remove a small section of tint from the inner corner of the brow using a damp cotton wipe. If more exposure time is needed, reapply tint to the area from which it was removed. Check results after more exposure time.

## **Removing Brow Tint**

To remove brow tint, wipe the brow from inside to tail with a damp cotton wipe. Using a fresh damp cotton wipe, re-wipe the brow from tail to inside. This second step will ensure that tint is removed from the layers of hair closer to the skin. Lastly, remove the barrier cream.

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# Objective Three Self-Test

1) What is a chemical reaction?

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2) What is oxidization and why is it important for tinting

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3) Why is it important to work quickly after the reactants are mixed?

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4) Where do most tints come from?

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5) As a rule of thumb, how dark are lashes and brows tinted?

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6) How is tint applied to the upper lashes?

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# Objective Three Self-Test Answers

- 1) A chemical reaction is an interaction between two or more substances (called reactants) to form one or more new substances (called products). During a chemical reaction, atoms and/or molecules move between the reactants to form new substances.
- 2) Oxidizing is the process of one substance giving oxygen molecules to another substance. Oxidizing is important to tinting because oxidizing traps the colour inside the hair.
- 3) It is important to work quickly because the tint must be applied before oxidization occurs.
- 4) Most tints come from plant sources.
- 5) Lashes and brows are often tinted slightly lighter than the hair colour.
- 6) Tint is applied from the base of the lashes out towards the tips in a gentle stroking movement, moving from the outside to the centre.



# Objective four

*When you have completed this objective, you will be able to:*

Describe testing tinting results.

## Troubleshooting

Results depend upon the interaction of several factors: correct chemical proportions, timely mixing and application of colours, tint colour, original hair colour, and evenness and thickness of product application.

The success of the service depends upon the desired colour change and the evenness of the colour. Tinting can be unsuccessful if:

- The roots of the hair have retained their original colour. (The tint was not applied to this area).
- General lack of colour.
  - The products have completed their chemical reaction before being applied
  - The products may have passed their expiry date
  - The contact time was too short.
  - The reactants were not combined in the correct ratio.
- The colour is uneven. (Makeup, oil, and/or barrier cream was on the hairs).

## Record the Service

After the service is complete, record what was done. Of particular importance are the contact times and tints chosen. Having this information ready for the next visit will speed up the service by eliminating the need for colour experimentation and re-tinting.

## Aftercare

Aftercare instructions are a critical part of each service. They will help the client to sustain the effects of the service and mitigate any discomfort. Advise the client to not touch the service area for a few hours after the treatment, and apply a cold, dampened cloth if irritation occurs. Ask the client to inform you of irritation. This must be noted in the client consultation card. Advise the client to visit a medical professional if the irritation persists. Let the client know that results will last 4-6 weeks. Exposure to

sunlight and tanning salon lights will fade the results. Avoid heating the service area for 24 hours after the service, and avoid applying perfumed products to the service area for 24 hours after the service. Advise clients to avoid exfoliating the skin surrounding the service area for as long as they wish to have their lashes and brows tinted.

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# Objective Four Self-Test

1) What potential problem can occur if some makeup was left on the lash hairs?

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2) What potential problem can occur if the reactants were not mixed in the correct ratio?

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3) Why is it important to record the contact times of a lash and brow tint on a service record?

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4) For how long after a service should the client avoid applying heat to the lashes and brows?

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# Objective Four Self-Test Answers

- 1) The resulting colour can be uneven.
- 2) General lack of colour.
- 3) Knowing the contact time will reduce or eliminate the need for experimenting on the next visit.
- 4) 24 hours.

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# Objective Five

*When you have completed this objective, you will be able to:*  
Demonstrate eyelash and eyebrow tinting.

## Laboratory Exercise

**Purpose:** Tint eyelashes and eyebrows.

**Materials:**


**Procedure:**

**Instructor verification:**

# Module Summary Self-Test

1) List two ways in which lash and brow tinting suits the needs of clients:

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2) What must be explained to clients regarding what a lash and brow tint can and cannot do for them?

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3) What PPE is commonly used during a lash and brow tint?

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4) Why should eyebrows never be shaped before a tinting?

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5) Can dry eyes be a contraindication that may prevent or restrict a lash and brow tint?

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6) In general terms, what happens during a chemical reaction?

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7) What are the two primary pieces of legislation that govern cosmetics?

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8) How is the area of the eye defined?

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9) What is the process for applying tint to the lashes?

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10) What can a client do if they experience mild irritation after a lash and brow tint?

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# Module Summary Self-Test Answers

- 1) Tinting is non-invasive, unlike microblading; tinting only lasts 4-6 weeks, so can be changed to match preferences, tinting lasts longer, requires less care, and is less expensive than eyelash extensions.
- 2) The client must understand that a lash and brow tint will only accentuate a pre-existing feature.
- 3) PPE commonly includes eye protection, latex or rubber gloves, and an apron.
- 4) Tint can soak into the follicles of recently removed hairs causing an allergic reaction. Reshaping the eyebrows will also stimulate blood flow to the hair follicles and may cause erythema (a reddening of the skin) and increased sensitivity.
- 5) Yes.
- 6) During a chemical reaction, atoms and/or molecules move between the reactants to form new substances.
- 7) The *Food and Drugs Act*, and the *Cosmetic Regulations*.
- 8) The area of the eye is defined as the area bounded by the supraorbital and infraorbital ridges and includes the eyebrows, the skin underlying the eyebrows, the eyelids, the eyelashes, the conjunctival sac of the eye, the eyeball and the soft tissue that lies below the eye and within the infraorbital ridge.
- 9) Mix only the reactants; apply the tint to the bottom lashes from the base of the lashes out towards the tips in a gentle stroking movement. Ask the client to look upwards. For the upper lashes, ask the client to close their eyes. Apply the tint from the base of the lashes out towards the tips in a gentle stroking movement. The applicator may need to be rolled to remove all of the product from it. Lifting the eyebrows may assist in exposing the corners of the eyes.



10) The client can apply a cold, dampened cloth to the irritated area.

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