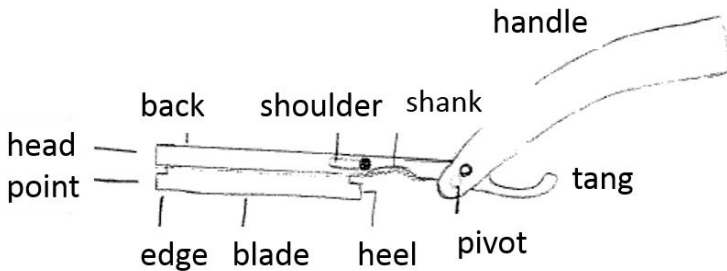


SECTION 6 SHAVING

The purpose of a shave is to remove hair with a razor without irritating or cutting the skin. To help not irritate the skin and allow the blade to move smoothly, use a lathering agent. To prevent the spread of infection during a shave, never use the same blade on more than one client and after the service, used blades should be placed in a sharps container box. Sanitize the blade itself before and after every client. Also, use a clean towel or plastic cap on the headrest for every client. If a client has a skin infection or a lesion, do not give a shave service to that client. Lock your chair when doing this service to prevent the chair from moving while placing the blade against your client's face. To prevent from cutting yourself, never cut towards your hand. Instead use your index finger and your thumb to pull the skin in the opposite direction the blade will be moving and to not cut your client so easily, hold the razor at a 30 degree angle on the face. When the shave is complete, apply an astringent to cleanse the skin and close your client's pores.

The straight razor implement does look simple enough but there are 11 parts to your razor you should become familiar with. To make it easy for you, here is a diagram of the different parts you should memorize.



There are two types of straight razors: conventional and changeable. The conventional straight razor has a blade attached to it that cannot be removed. To keep it sharp it must be honed and stropped. The changeable razor has many of the same parts except the

blade is removable. Since the blade is removable, and you are using a new blade for every client, the changeable blade is the preferred razor. There are only a few states that still allow the use of a conventional straight razor. Check with your State Board to see if it is legal to use it.

As stated earlier, the blade of a conventional razor requires you to strop and hone it. A strop is a smooth, flat piece of leather used to smooth a razor's edge after honing. A hone is a stone used to grind the razor and make it sharp. Repeat this mnemonic: grind that hone and smooth that strop. A changeable razor does not require stropping or honing so to change the blade hold the open shank in one hand and slide the blade out with either a blade guard or the corner of a hard surface. Once removed, store the used blade in a razor sharps box. If there is not a sharps box present most State Boards allow for a Level 2 plastic like an empty plastic bleach bottle or an empty box of detergent to be used. Plastic this thick will not allow a razor to go through it unless force is applied. Contact your State Board to find out what is acceptable for your shop in the place of a sharps container. If you have ever heard of a balanced razor, what that means is a razor having the same weight on the blade side as the handle side does. To check for balance, open your shank and rest it on your finger to see if it will balance properly.

Chances are you will be working with sharp implements at some point in your career. The more you handle these implements the greater the chance you have of cutting yourself or your client. What we as professional barbers do is approach all bodily fluids with Universal Precautions. Universal Precautions is the attitude you take when dealing with any blood or bodily fluids as if you know that it carries an infectious disease. Another phrase that gets thrown around but I do not want you to confused with Universal Precautions is Standard Precautions. Standard Precautions include hand washing and wearing the appropriate protective equipment such as gloves and masks when the service or procedure requires. So remember, Universal Precautions is the attitude you take when dealing with body fluids whereas Standard Precautions are measures you take after a situation has occurred.

Wishfully I hope you never cut yourself or your client. But just in case you should know what to do if you cut them. If you cut