



Board for Barbers and Cosmetology

May 7, 2018

Guidance Document: Chemical Exfoliation

Definition of Chemical Exfoliation and interpretation of what license is required to use chemical exfoliants under Code of Virginia §54.1-700 et. seq.

Chemical exfoliation is the removal of dead skin cells and/or the intercellular matrix through the use of chemicals.

Chemical exfoliation requires a master esthetician license. The Code of Virginia 54.1-700 defines master esthetician as “a licensed esthetician who, in addition to the practice of esthetics, offers to the public for compensation, without the use of laser technology, lymphatic drainage, chemical exfoliation, or microdermabrasion....” As such, estheticians may not use chemicals, including the chemicals listed in 18VAC 41-70-250.B, to remove dead skin cells or the intercellular matrix in the skin without holding a master esthetician license.