

Manicurists and Pedicurists

SOC: 39-5092 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$34,660

Median Salary

210,100

Employment

+7.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Postsecondary

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 32.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

■■ Work-Life Balance

7.6/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.6/10	Investigative	4.6/10
Artistic	6.6/10	Social	8.8/10
Enterprising	5.6/10	Conventional	5.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Business skills, Creativity, Customer-service skills, Dexterity

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Manicurists and Pedicurists are personal care professionals who provide **nail grooming, cosmetic treatments, and hand and foot care services** to enhance clients' appearance, comfort, and confidence. They combine technical skill with creativity and hygiene standards to deliver services ranging from basic nail maintenance to advanced nail art, while ensuring a relaxing and safe client experience.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy hands-on work, creativity, and building positive relationships with clients.

What Do Manicurists and Pedicurists Do?

Manicurists and pedicurists perform cosmetic and wellness-focused services for hands, feet, and nails. Their responsibilities emphasize sanitation, technique, and customer satisfaction.

Common responsibilities include:

- Cleaning, shaping, and trimming fingernails and toenails
- Applying nail polish, gel, acrylics, or other enhancements
- Treating cuticles, calluses, and dry skin
- Performing basic hand and foot massages
- Creating decorative nail art and custom designs
- Sanitizing tools, equipment, and workstations
- Advising clients on nail care and maintenance

Types of Nail Care Professionals

This occupation includes several service focuses:

- Manicurists: Specialize in fingernail care and enhancements.
- Pedicurists: Focus on foot care, toenails, and skin treatments.
- Nail Technicians: Provide both manicure and pedicure services.
- Nail Artists: Create detailed designs and specialty nail art.
- Spa or Medical Nail Technicians (related roles): Work in wellness or clinical settings.

Skills and Abilities Needed

Manicurists and pedicurists combine technical precision with customer service.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Licensure Pathway

Becoming a manicurist or pedicurist requires formal training and licensure:

- Postsecondary Nail Technology Program: Completion of state-approved training hours
- Licensing Examination: Required to practice legally
- State Licensure: Mandatory in most states
- Continuing Education: Learning new techniques, products, and trends
- Specialty Certifications (optional): Advanced nail art or product certifications

Licensing requirements vary by state.

Where Do Manicurists and Pedicurists Work?

These professionals work in a variety of personal care settings:

- Nail Salons and Spas
- Full-Service Beauty Salons

- Resorts, Hotels, and Cruise Ships
- Medical or Wellness Facilities (limited scope)
- Self-Employed or Booth Rental Settings
- Mobile or On-Call Services

Work schedules may include evenings, weekends, and flexible hours.

How Much Do Manicurists and Pedicurists Earn?

Earnings vary by location, clientele, and service offerings:

- Entry-Level Professionals: Typically earn hourly wages or service-based pay
- Experienced or Specialized Technicians: Often earn more through repeat clients and advanced services
- Self-Employed Professionals: Income depends on pricing, volume, and tips

Compensation often includes tips and commission.

Is This Career Difficult?

The work requires physical stamina for long periods of sitting or standing and precise hand movements. The challenge lies in maintaining consistent quality, sanitation standards, and client satisfaction while working efficiently throughout the day.

Who Should Consider Becoming a Manicurist or Pedicurist?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy beauty, fashion, and creative design
- Like working one-on-one with clients
- Have good hand-eye coordination
- Prefer flexible or self-directed work schedules
- Want a service-oriented career with artistic expression

How to Prepare Early

- Practice fine motor skills and attention to detail
- Learn basic hygiene and sanitation principles
- Explore nail art trends and techniques
- Develop customer service and communication skills
- Research state-approved nail technology programs

Manicurists and pedicurists blend artistry, technique, and care to help clients look and feel their best, transforming routine nail services into personalized beauty experiences.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/personal-care-and-service/manicurists-and-pedicurists.htm>