

# Skincare Specialists

## Summary



### What Skincare Specialists Do

Skincare specialists remove unwanted hair using wax or laser treatment.

Skincare specialists cleanse and beautify the face and body to enhance a person's appearance.

### Duties

Skincare specialists typically do the following:

- Evaluate clients' skin condition and appearance
- Discuss available treatments and determine which products will improve clients' skin quality
- Remove unwanted hair using wax or laser treatment
- Clean the skin before applying makeup
- Recommend skincare products, such as cleansers, lotions, or creams
- Teach and advise clients on how to apply makeup and how to take care of their skin
- Refer clients to other skincare specialists, such as a dermatologist, for serious skin problems
- Sterilize equipment and clean work areas

Skincare specialists give facials, full-body treatments, and head and neck massages to improve the health and appearance of the skin. Some may provide other skincare treatments, such as peels, masks, or scrubs, to remove dead or dry skin.

In addition to working with clients, skincare specialists also keep records of skincare regimens that their regular clients use. A growing number of specialists actively sell skincare products, such as cleansers, lotions, and creams.

Those who operate their own salons have managerial duties that may include hiring, supervising, and firing workers, as well as keeping business and inventory records, ordering supplies, and arranging for advertising.

Quick Facts: Skincare Specialists	
What Skincare Specialists Do; Skincare specialists cleanse and beautify the face and body to enhance a person's appearance.	
<b>2010 Median Pay</b> Cosmetologist & Barbers	\$28,920 per year \$13.90 per hour
<b>Work Environment</b>	<i>Skincare specialists usually work in salons, health and beauty spas, or medical offices. Most work full time. Many work evenings and weekends, especially self-employed workers operating their own salon.</i>
<b>Entry-Level Education; How to Become a Manicurist &amp; Pedicurist</b>	<i>Skincare specialists must complete a state-approved cosmetology program. After completing the program, they must pass a state exam for licensure, which all states except Connecticut require. Newly hired specialists sometimes receive on-the-job training, especially when working with chemicals.</i>
<b>Work Experience in a Related Occupation</b>	None
<b>Job Outlook</b>	<i>Employment of skincare specialists is expected to grow 25 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations. The growing number of beauty salons and spas should result in good job opportunities.</i>
<b>Number of Jobs, 2010</b>	47,600
<b>Similar Occupations</b>	<b><i>Barbers, Hairdressers &amp; Cosmetologists:</i></b> Barbers, hairdressers, and cosmetologists provide hair styling and beauty services. 2010 Median Pay. \$22,500 <b><i>Manicurists &amp; Pedicurists:</i></b> Manicurists and pedicurists clean, shape, and beautify fingernails and toenails. 2010 Median Pay. \$19,650
<b>Job Outlook, 2010-20</b>	25% (Faster than average)
<b>Employment Change, 2010-20</b>	11,100

### Work Environment

Skincare specialists work in salons, beauty spas, and sometimes in medical offices.

Skincare specialists held about 47,600 jobs in 2010, of which 47 percent worked in the personal care services industry. About 37 percent were self-employed.



Skincare specialists usually work in salons, health and beauty spas or, less frequently, in medical offices. The job may involve a lot of standing.

Because skincare specialists must evaluate the skins' condition, good lighting and clean surroundings are important. Protective clothing and good ventilation also may be necessary because skincare specialists often use chemicals on the face and body.

## Work Schedules

Skincare specialists typically work full time, with many working nights and weekends. Long hours are common, especially for self-employed workers.

## How to Become a Skincare Specialist

Skincare specialists must pass a state-approved cosmetology program before getting licensed.



Skincare specialists must complete a state-approved cosmetology program. After completing the program, they must pass a state exam for licensure, which all states except Connecticut require.

## Education and Training

Skincare specialists usually take a state-approved cosmetology program. Some high schools offer vocational training. Most people, however, receive their training from a postsecondary vocational school.

Newly hired specialists sometimes receive on-the-job training, especially when working with chemicals. Those who are employed in a medical environment may also receive on-the-job training, often working alongside an experienced skincare specialist.

## Licenses

After completing an approved cosmetology program, skincare specialists take a written and practical exam to get a state license. Licensing requirements vary by state, so those interested should contact their state board.

Many states offer continuing education seminars and programs designed to keep skincare specialists current on new techniques and products.

## Important Qualities

**Customer-service skills.** Skincare specialists should be friendly and courteous when dealing with clients. Repeat business is important, particularly for self-employed workers.

**Stamina.** Skincare specialists must be able to spend most of their day standing and massaging clients' face and body.

## Pay – Skincare Specialists

Median hourly wages, May 2010

<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	\$16.27
<b>Skincare Specialists</b>	\$13.90
<b>Personal Appearance Workers</b>	\$10.77

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics

The median hourly wage of skincare specialists was \$13.90 in May 2010. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent of skincare specialists earned less than \$8.22, and the top 10 percent earned more than \$24.47.

In May 2010, median annual wages in industries employing the largest numbers of skincare specialists were as follows:

Offices of physicians	\$18.45
Other amusement and recreation industries	17.37
Personal care services	12.98
Health and personal care stores	11.89
Traveler accommodation	11.80

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## Job Outlook – Skincare Specialists

Percent change in employment, projected 2010-20

<b>Skincare Specialists</b>	25%
<b>Personal Appearance Workers</b>	15%
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	14%

Note: All Occupations includes all occupations in the U.S. Economy.  
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

Employment of skincare specialists is expected to grow 25 percent from 2010 to 2020, faster than the average for all occupations.

The increase in employment reflects demand for new services being offered, such as mini sessions (quick facials at a lower cost) and mobile facials (making house calls). In addition, the desire among women and a growing number of men to reduce the effects of aging and to lead a healthier lifestyle through better grooming should result in employment growth, including skin treatments for relaxation and well-being.

## Job Prospects

Job opportunities should be good due to the growing number of beauty salons and spas. Those with experience are expected to have the best job prospects.

### Employment projections data for skincare specialists, 2010-20

Occupational Title	SOC Code	Employment, 2010	Projected Employment, 2020	Change, 2010-20		Employment by Industry
				Percent	Numerical	
Skincare Specialists	39-5094	47,600	59,300	25	11,700	<a href="#">[XLS]</a>

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Projections program

For more information about skincare specialists, visit  
Aesthetics International Association • International Pedicure Association •  
Professional Beauty Association • International Spa Association

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics | Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections, PSB Suite 2135, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20212-0001 [www.bls.gov/ooh](http://www.bls.gov/ooh) | Telephone: 1-202-691-5700 | [Contact OOH](#) **Publish Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2012