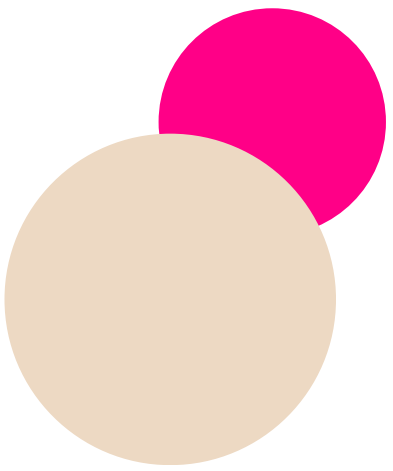


Crash Course

to

Structure Gel





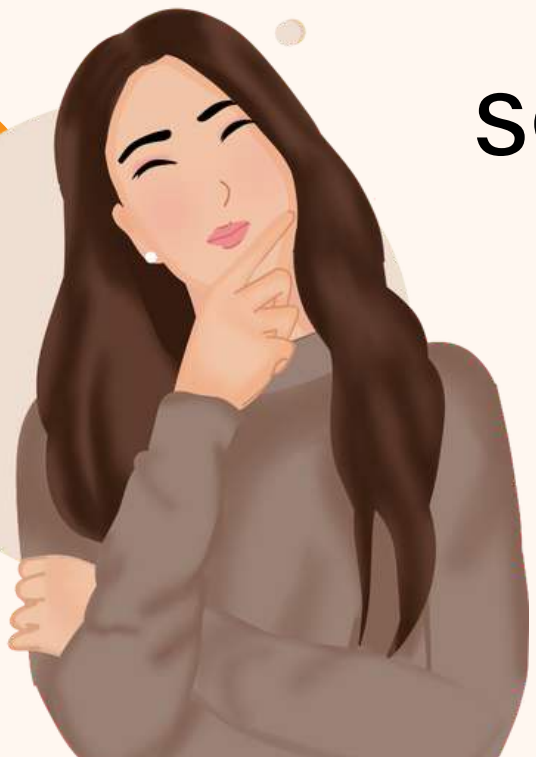
CHARACTERISTICS OF PREMIUM SOFT GELS



CHARACTERISTICS OF PREMIUM SOFT GELS

WHAT ARE PREMIUM SOFT GELS?

In a jist premium soft gels are gels that are typically high resin formulas. They are high on their oligomer content, and low on their monomer content. They typically are also solvent-free.

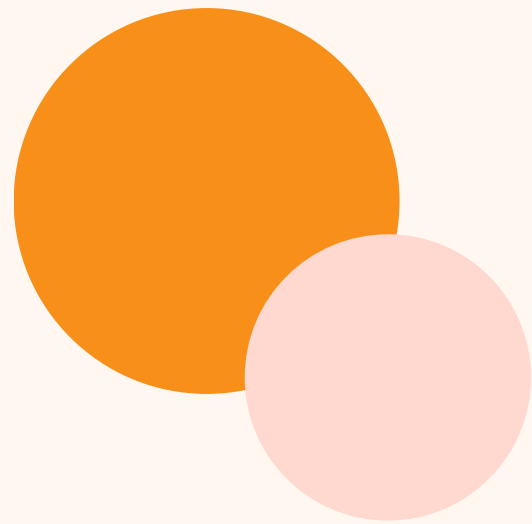
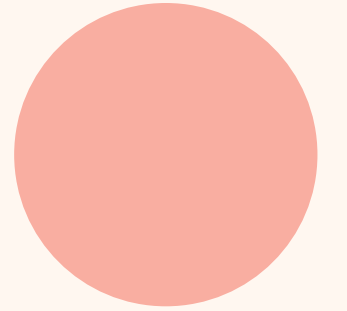


CHARACTERISTICS OF PREMIUM SOFT GELS

BTW...

Soft gel = Soak-off gel

It has typically two hardness levels,
soft and semi-hard.

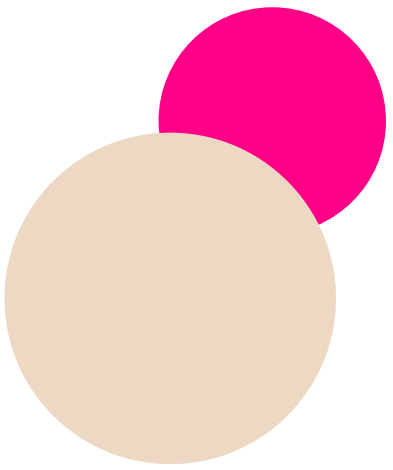


CHARACTERISTICS OF PREMIUM SOFT GELS



Popular and long established brands include, Bio Sculpture, and Japanese gel brands.





FUN FACTS



FUN FACTS

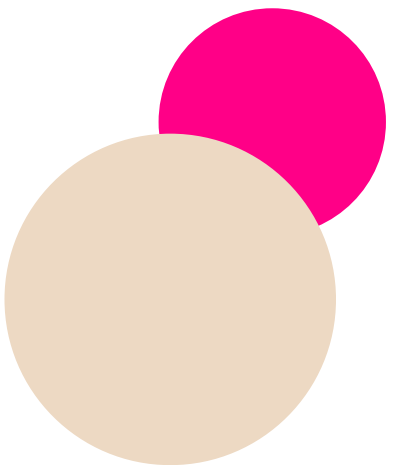
#1 Potted soft gel (PSG) systems were
invented by Bio Sculpture Gel in 1988
(Yes! Over 30 years ago!),



FUN FACTS

#2 In Japan, bottled is considered DIY, and the nail techs will hardly ever specialize in it. They value the process and experience as much as the retention of the nails.



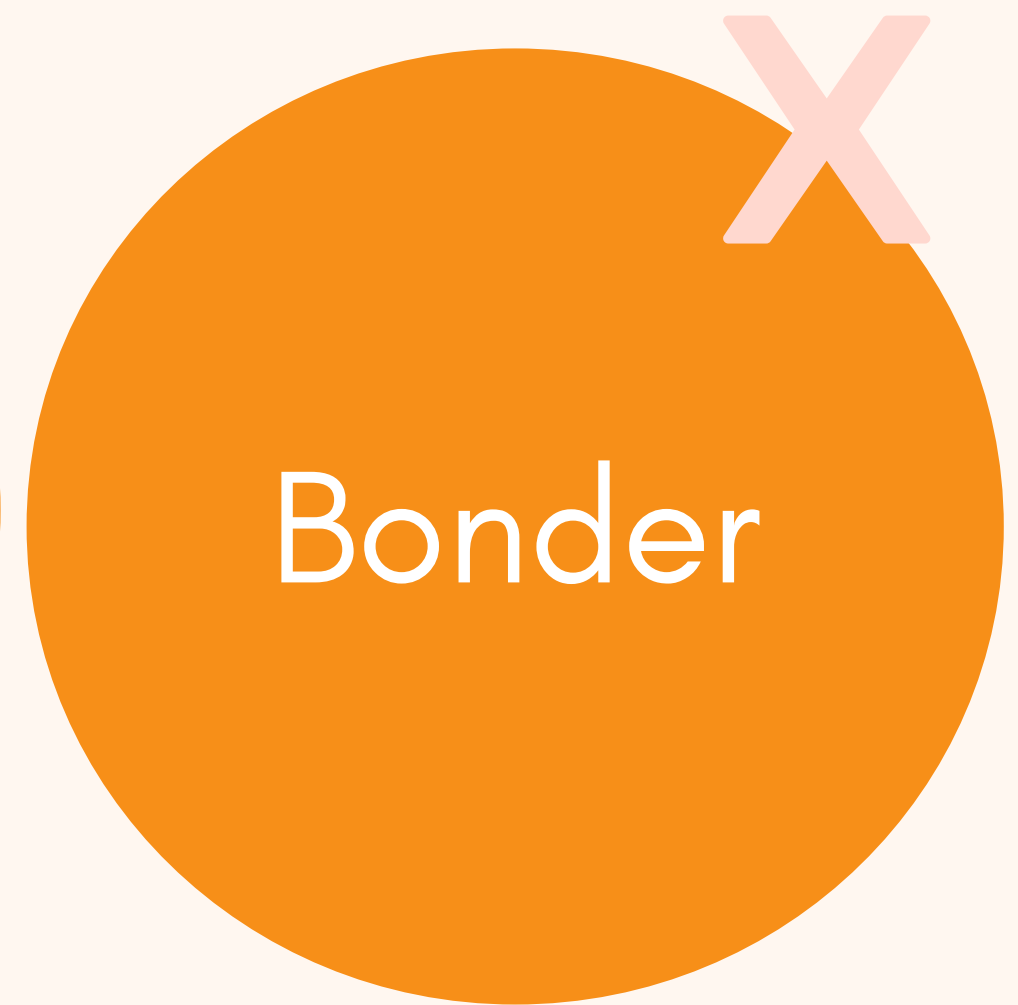


NAIL PREP FOR PREMIUM SOFT GELS

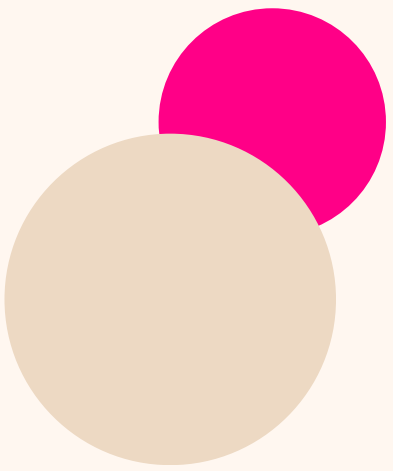


NAIL PREP FOR PREMIUM SOFT GELS

Premium soft gels do not require



NAIL PREP FOR PREMIUM SOFT GELS

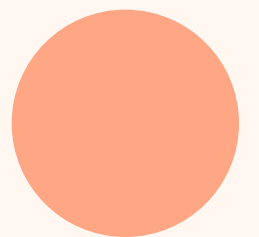


All that is required for long wear is
a sponge buffer and an alcohol
solution of at least 90%

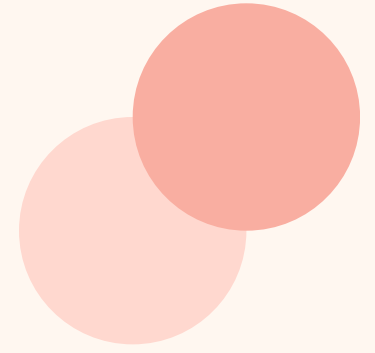


NAIL PREP FOR PREMIUM SOFT GELS

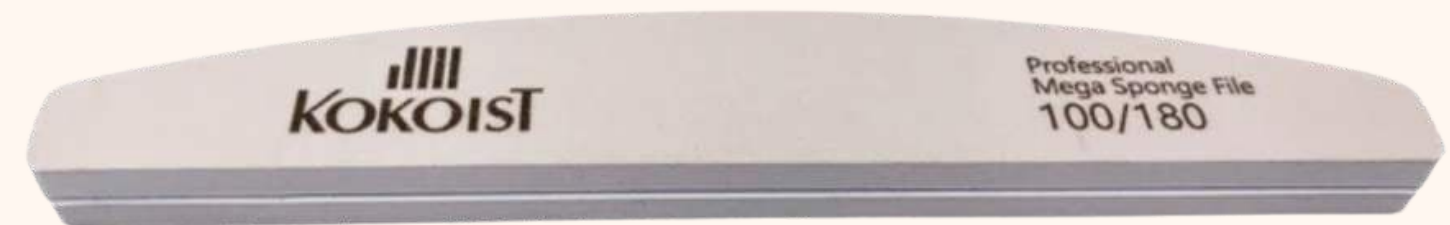
Premium soft gels allow
for no-sanding or gentle sanding prep
(*i.e. ~ 200g sponge buffer*)



NAIL PREP FOR PREMIUM SOFT GELS



However, for salon application you want at least a 180g sponge buffer, with harsher grits (like board file or sanding band) left for use on problem-lifters.



NAIL PREP FOR PREMIUM SOFT GELS

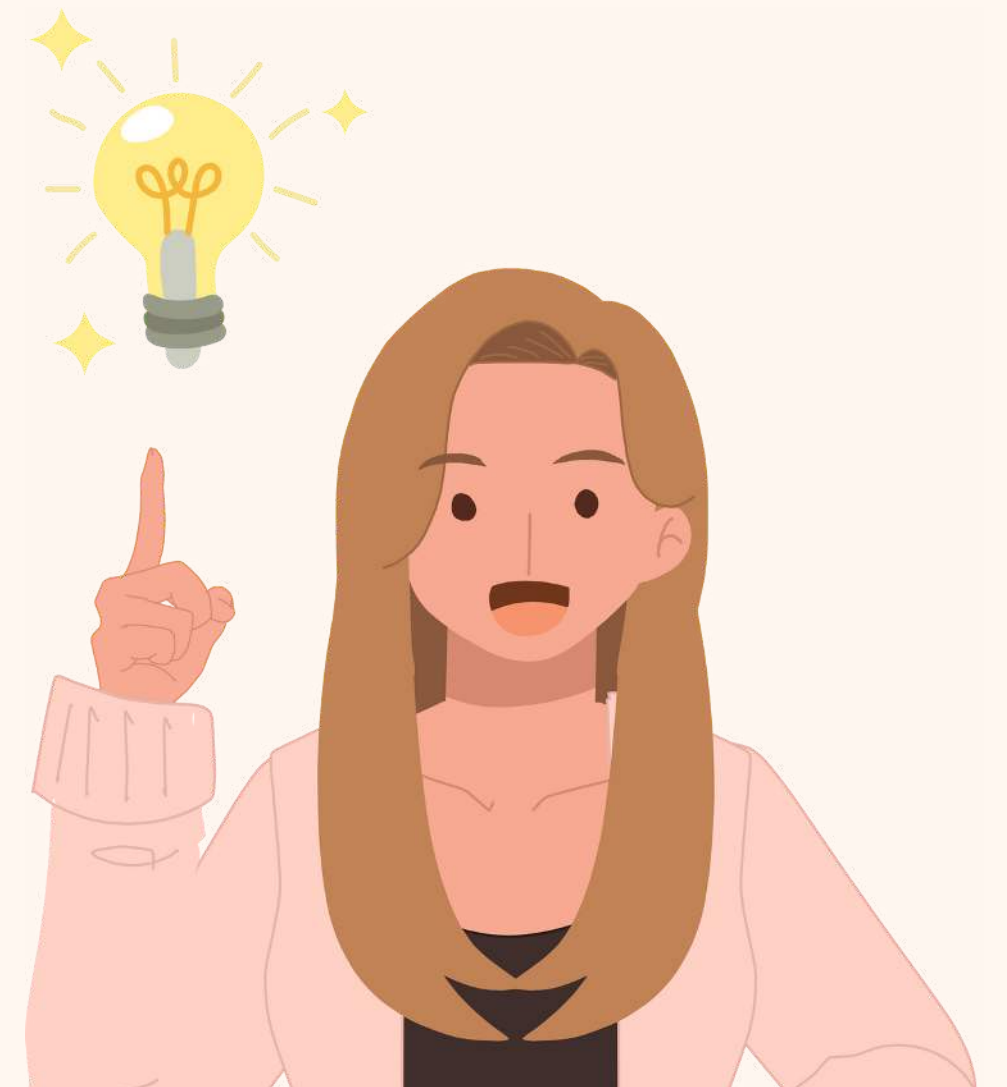
In general

Buff Prep	Etch Prep
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More rubbery, flexible base	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More hard, less flexible base• Long lengths



NAIL PREP FOR PREMIUM SOFT GELS

Don't know the flexibility of your gel?
Test it.

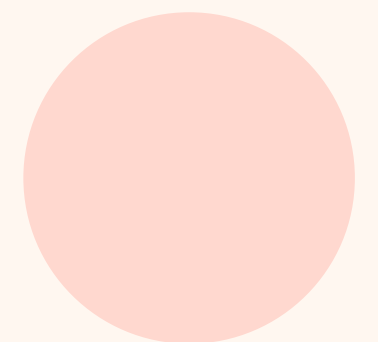


NAIL PREP FOR PREMIUM SOFT GELS

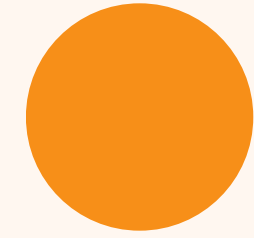


With the Flex Test:

- Grab a small Ziploc-type bag.
- Swipe a generous amount of gel (even thickness) and cure it 60 secs.
- With gloves on your hands peel it, and flex it.



NAIL PREP FOR PREMIUM SOFT GELS



Does it feel bouncy? Then, it is more on the flexible side (i.e. soft)

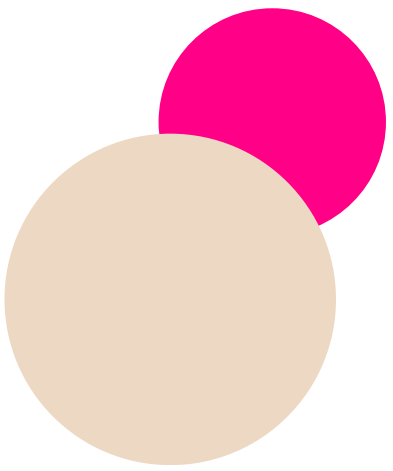
Does it feel like it can crack (even if it doesn't)?
Then, it is more on the hard side
(i.e. semi-hard).



NAIL PREP FOR PREMIUM SOFT GELS

Being a “gentle procedure” tech that delivers monthly wearing gel nails leads to loyal happy return clientele who can’t stop raving – making you known as that [#naturanailgoals](#) tech in your area!





COMPOSITION OF NAIL GEL



COMPOSITION OF NAIL GEL

There are 4 key components to a gel formula:





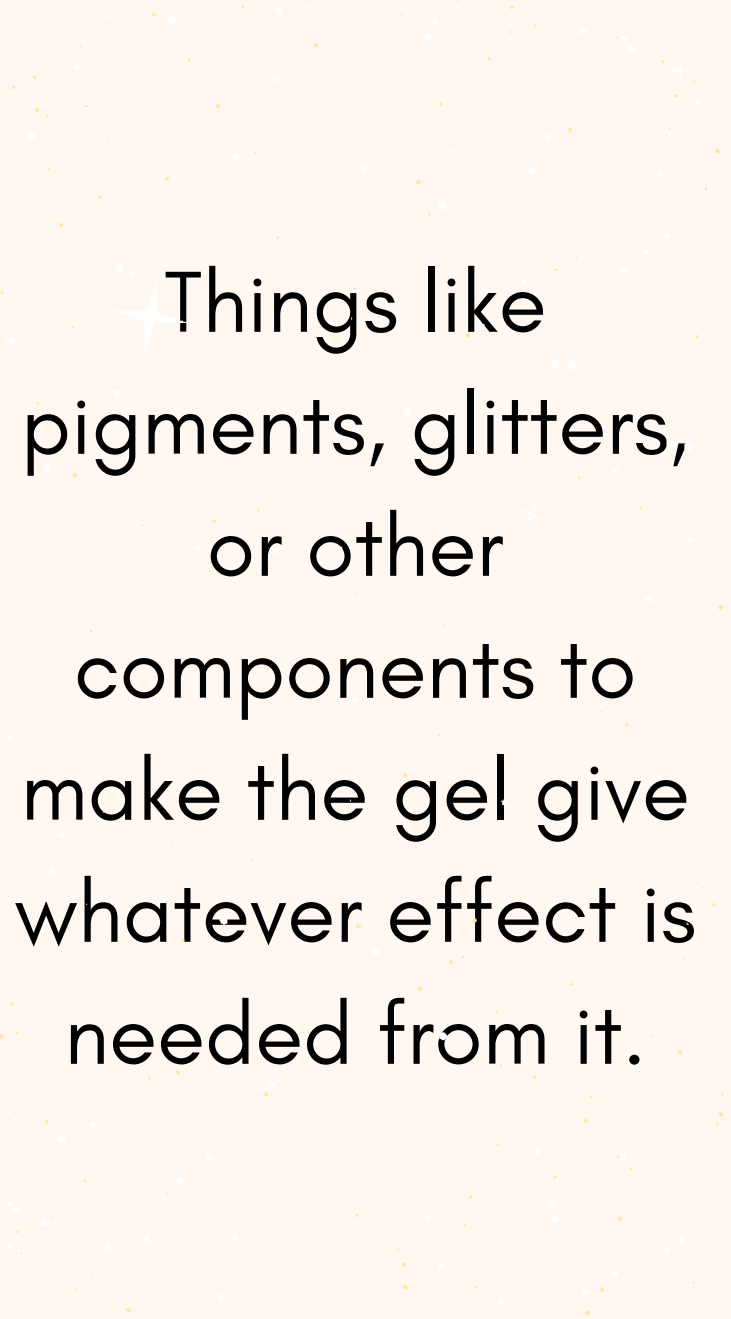
oligomer

monomer

photoinitiator

additives

COMPOSITION OF NAIL GEL

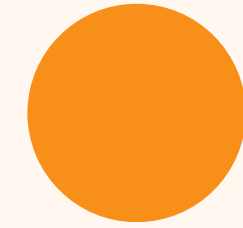
Oligomer	Monomers	Photoinitiators	Additives
 <p>The thicker molecule resin in your gel formula and it gives the gel its main viscosity and strength.</p>	 <p>Thinner resins in your gel formulas used for dilution and adhesion.</p> <p>(HEMA, IBMA, HPMA)</p>	<p>Light-reactive compounds used in the resin formula to make it cure under the UVA spectrum of light.</p> <p>Industry uses photoinitiator curing at ~365 nm, and ~405 nm.</p> <p>Most gels are formulated w/ both so that they can cure faster and evenly.</p>	 <p>Things like pigments, glitters, or other components to make the gel give whatever effect is needed from it.</p>

COMPOSITION OF NAIL GEL

Either pot or bottle forms of gel have these 4 components in their formulation, making them both premium options.



COMPOSITION OF NAIL GEL



However, the most premium soft gels are those that are found in a pot because of their high oligomer content.

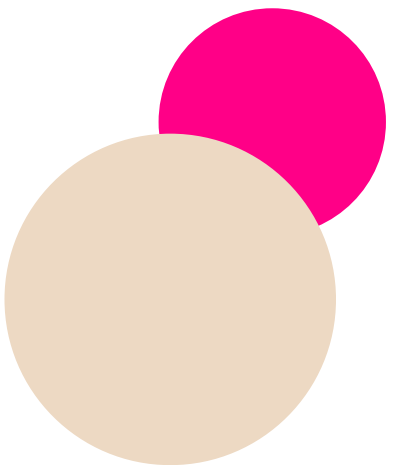
Oligomer is the base resin ingredient of the gel.



COMPOSITION OF NAIL GEL



You can usually tell how high the percentage of oligomer in a gel formula is because of its viscosity. High viscosity, means high oligomer content.



UNDERSTANDING VISCOSITIES AND STRUCTURE



UNDERSTANDING VISCOSITIES AND STRUCTURE

Premium soft gel formulas come in varying varieties. Because of this, they are the perfect gels for structuring (whether in a pot or bottle) because they allow you to customize the application to the nails' needs.



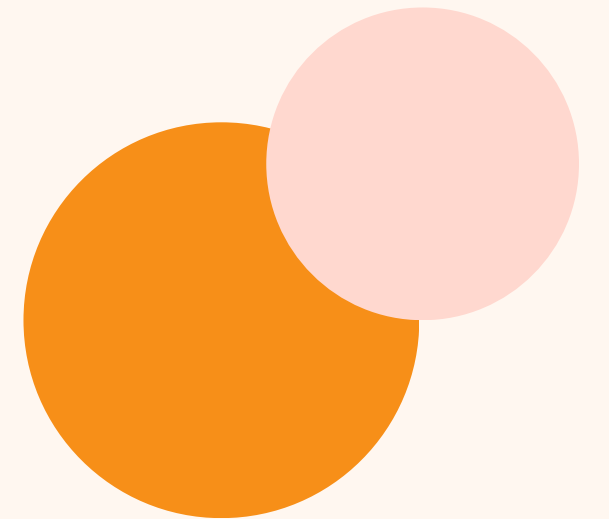
UNDERSTANDING VISCOSITIES AND STRUCTURE

When a potted soft gel line offers bottled options, that typically means more dilution ingredient (monomer) is added in the bottle form, for ease of use.



UNDERSTANDING VISCOSITIES AND STRUCTURE

Some gel lines offer their gels both in pot or bottle just for the convenience of the user. In this case, the formulas are the exact same, but if it fits in a bottle it means the formula will be a little less viscous.



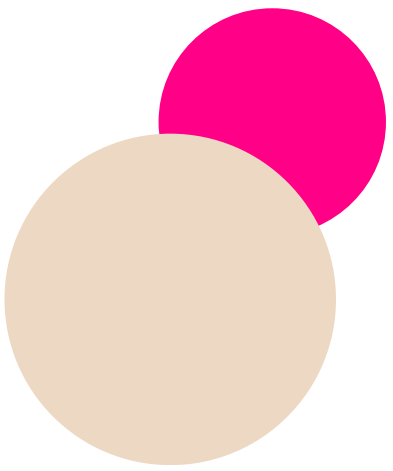
UNDERSTANDING VISCOSITIES AND STRUCTURE



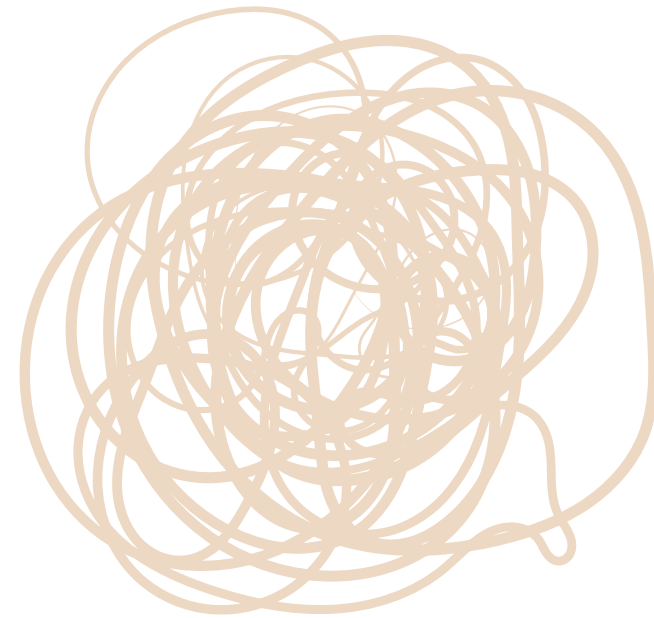
The rule of thumb is that a formula is in a pot because its viscosity does not allow it to dispense easily out of a bottle.

When a brand has the same gel name in a bottle or pot, do check with them if the formulas and viscosities are the same.

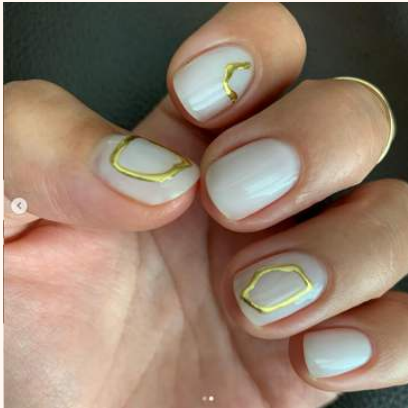





Deciphering it all




Deciphering it all

Natural Nail Length	Definition	Gel Viscosity	Gel Brush For Structuring	Structure Technique
Short Nails 	From no free-edge to free edges that are up to 1/3 of the amount of nail plate attached to the nail bed.	Low (thin)	Thick brush (more bristles)	BUILD 0 = Little to no apex. Focus on self-leveling the gel

Deciphering it all

Natural Nail Length	Definition	Gel Viscosity	Gel Brush For Structuring	Structure Technique
Medium Nails 	Free-edge is up to ½ of the amount of nail plate attached to the nail bed.	Universal, any viscosity works... low, medium, high. Depends on the natural nail's strength, or what you like to specialize in.	Dependent on gel formula: Thin gel = Thick brush Thick gel = Thin brush	BUILD 1 = Medium apex Enhance and support

Deciphering it all

Natural Nail Length	Definition	Gel Viscosity	Gel Brush For Structuring	Structure Technique
Long Nails 	Free-edge is as long as up to the full amount of nail plate attached to the nail bed.	High (thick)	Thin brush (few, firm, short bristles)	BUILD 2 = High apex to enhance but PRIMARILY support

Deciphering it all



Easy way to
remember what brush
you will need for your
gel viscosity is
“opposites attract”...

Thin gel = thick brush
Thick gel = thin brush

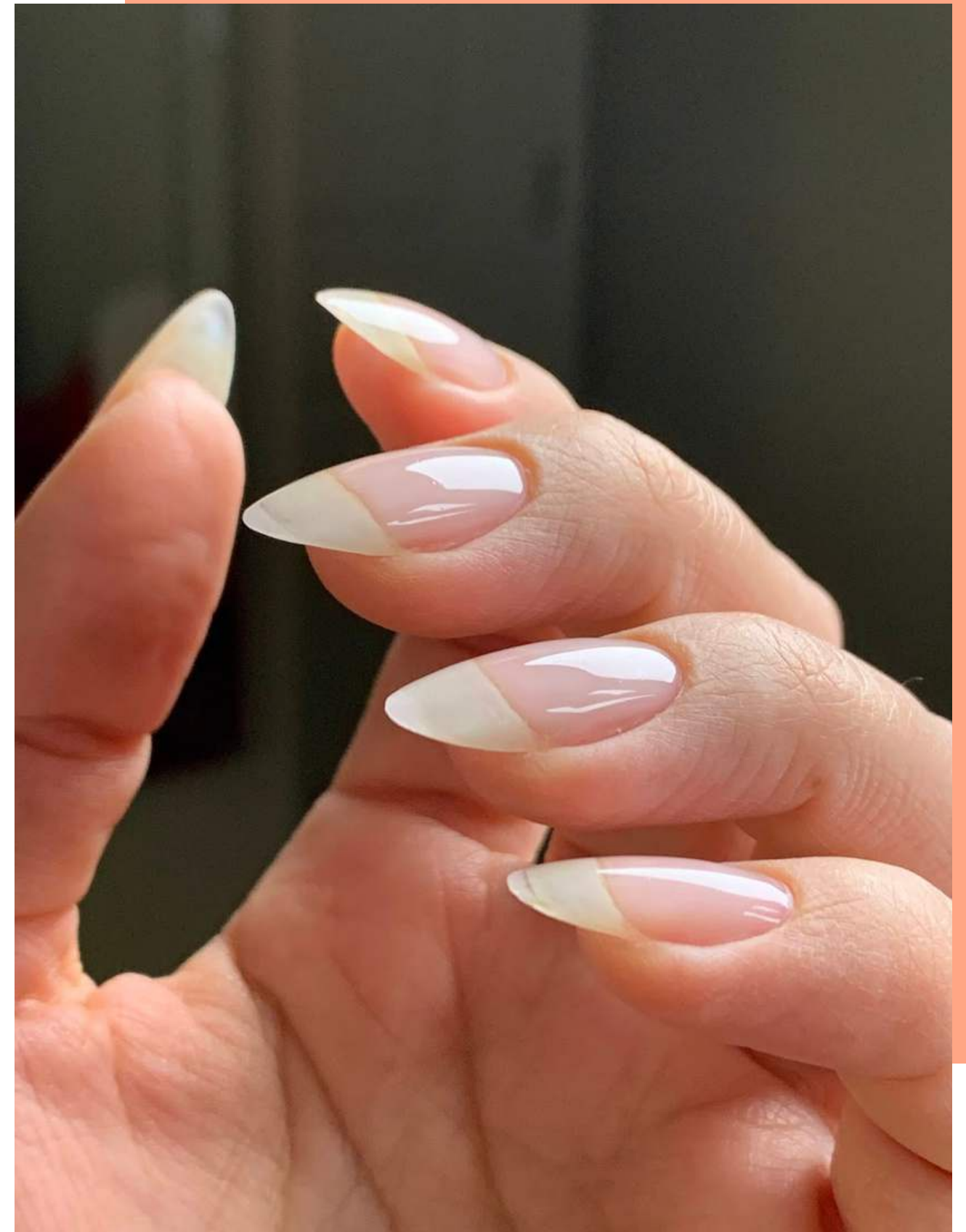
Deciphering it all

Ultimately, when you know your gel's viscosity, you will know which is best for a client's nail length, their nail art, and what top coat to finish their manicures with, no matter whether it is in pot or bottle form.

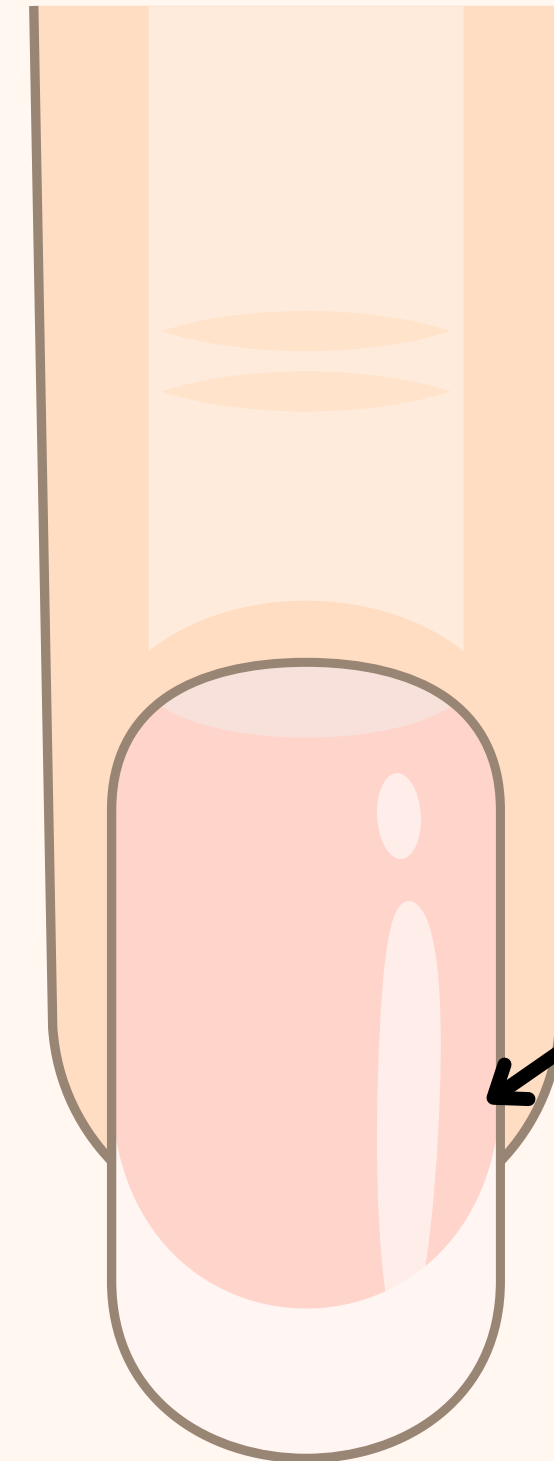




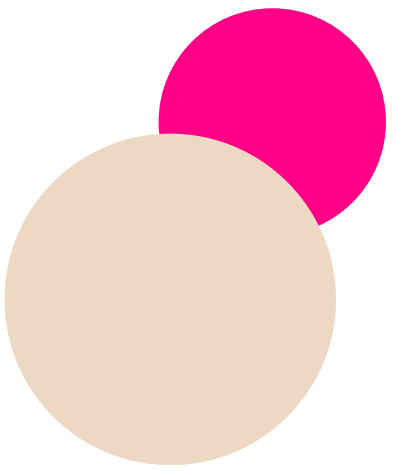
Where should the
apex lay?



Your apex should be
before the natural
nail's smile line.



before natural
nail's smile line



ALLERGIC REACTIONS

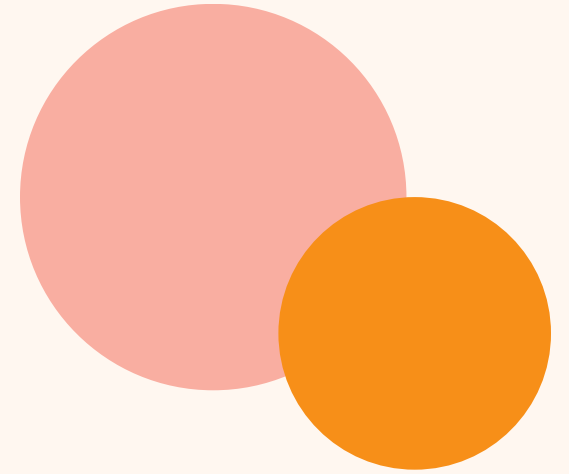


ALLERGIC REACTIONS

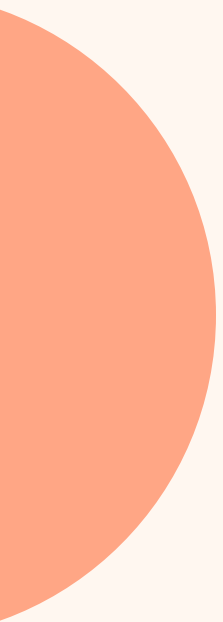
Coming in contact with uncured gel or leaving gel nails improperly cured continuously, is the main cause of allergic reactions.



ALLERGIC REACTIONS



Allergic reactions happen from
overexposure, not a single-time occurrence.



ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Also, according to industry scientists, gels
harden at 50%.

Hardened



Cured

ALLERGIC REACTIONS

The technician is at risk of developing allergies when constantly touching gel during applications and during removal of improperly cured gel.

The client and the technician are both at risk of developing allergic reactions when wearing improperly cured gel nails.



ALLERGIC REACTIONS

To avoid allergies due to any of these scenarios do your part to ensure an optimal cure by:

Using the curing unit from the primary line of gels you use

Using no more than two product lines

Purchasing gels from a reputable manufacturer or brand*

Changing your curing unit no later than 2.5 years when frequently using

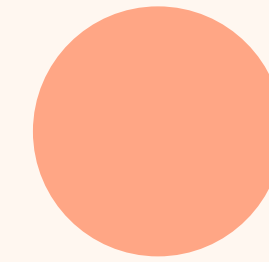


ALLERGIC REACTIONS

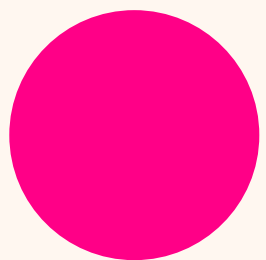
**The best gel options are from those companies that work with their own chemists to manufacture their own gels. (Bio, Vetro, Kokoist, Leafgel, and Presto all manufacture their own.)*



ALLERGIC REACTIONS



Cheap brands pump their lines with monomer, because oligomer is more expensive, and monomer is the more allergic component in your gel.



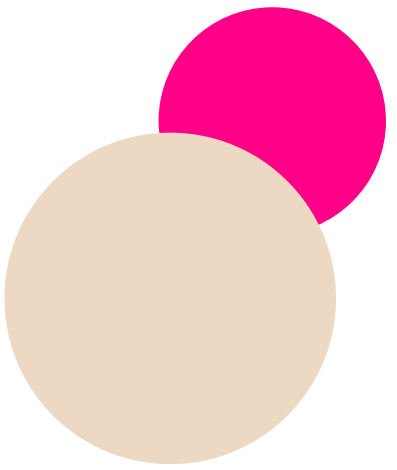
ALLERGIC REACTIONS

But remember:

Coming in contact with uncured gel or leaving gel nails improperly cured continuously, is the main cause of allergic reactions.

Not this monomer or that one
over there.





CONCLUSION



CONCLUSION

*When working on
clients, apply the most
universal fit.*



CONCLUSION

In my experience, the most universal application is ...

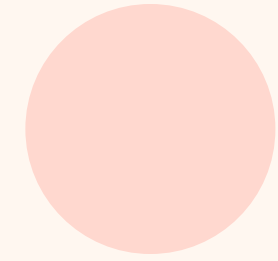
180g buffer with

base & builder or a 2-in-1 gel

I recommend this as your baseline.

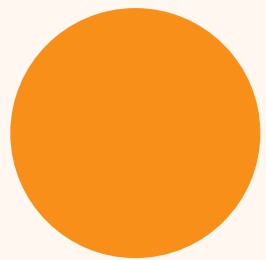


CONCLUSION



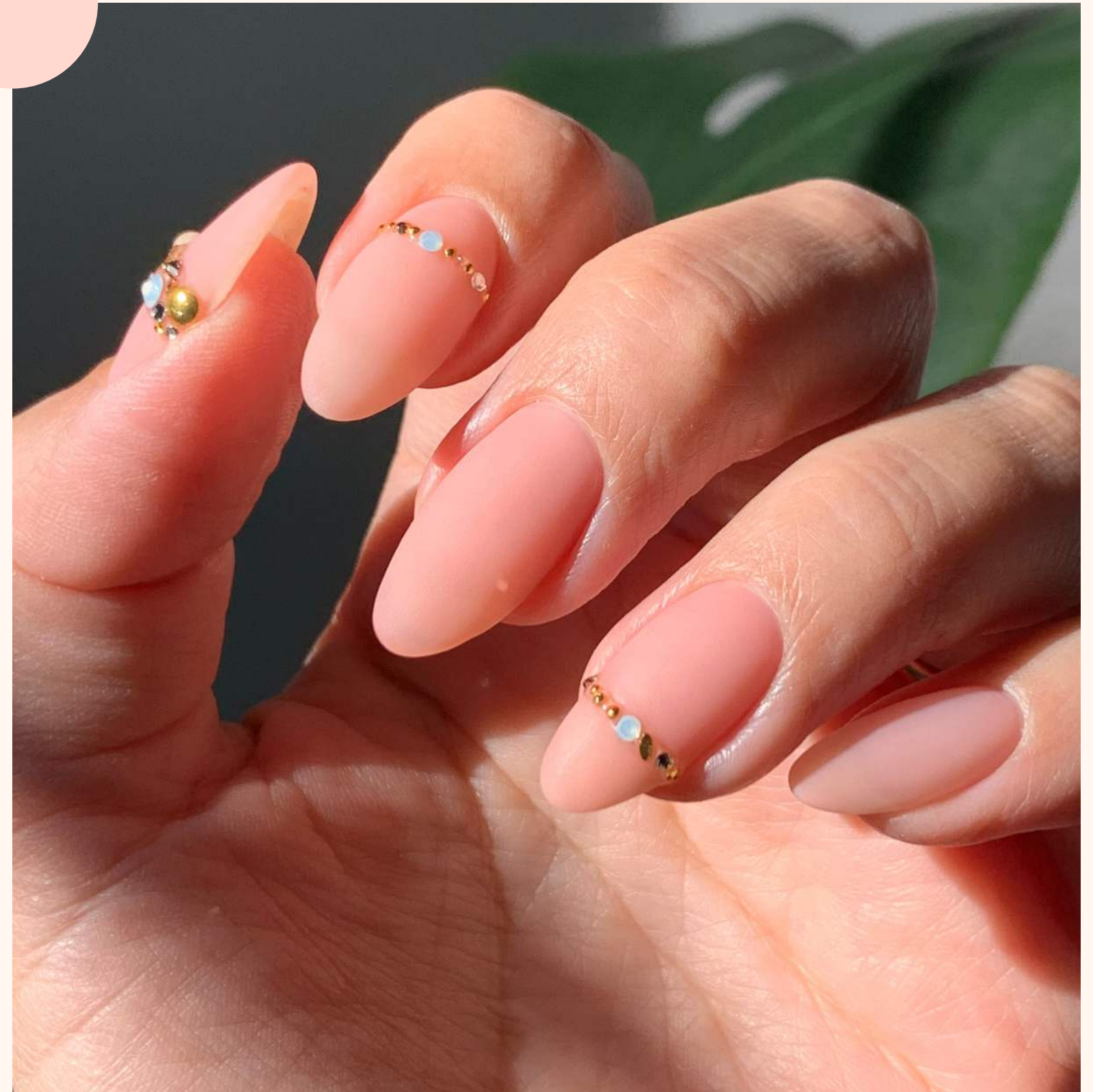
Start here and adjust with what you learned today.

i.e. More prep? A harder gel?



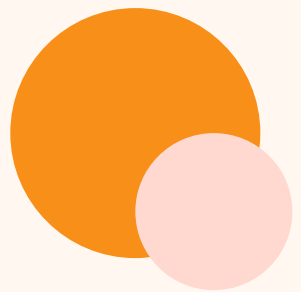
CONCLUSION

Potted soft gel is
indeed more intricate
and requires more
practice.

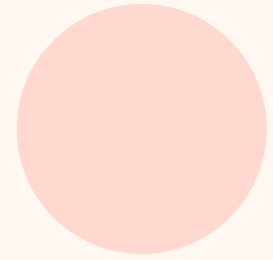


CONCLUSION

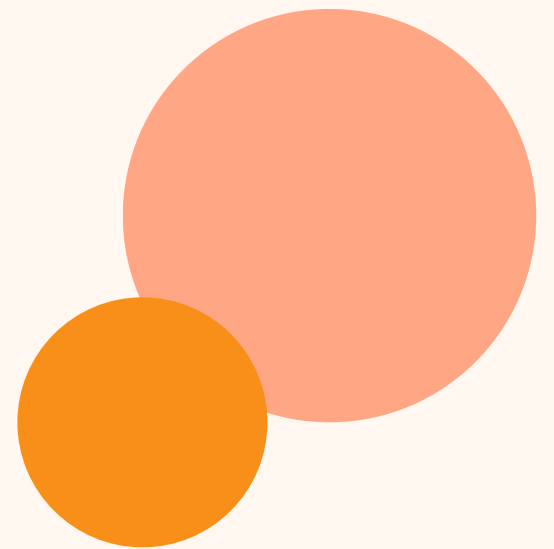
But OVERALL, it is my experience that a specialized potted soft gel tech has the potential to be the most premium paid stylist.



CONCLUSION



OPINION: As a professional, your services need some perceived level of complexity.



ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Our nail systems are becoming too easy

Gel press-ons

3-in-1 builders in
bottle


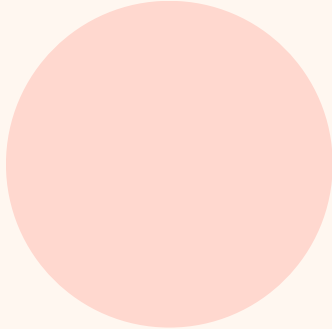
Dip here, dip
that

Dual form molds

CONCLUSION



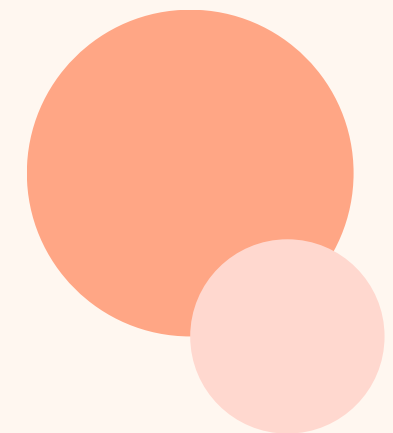
Press-ons look and feel more real than ever before and are also wearing longer than ever; the average of a salon gel service (3+ weeks).



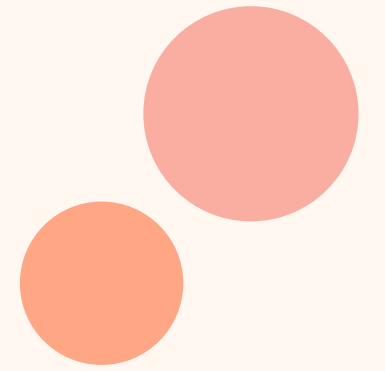
CONCLUSION



With the cost of everything rising, how will you keep your clients from the allurement of DIY and reusable press-ons?



CONCLUSION



Answer: By keeping yourself highly skilled and taking me on my recommendation of incorporating potted soft gels in your nail business.



CONCLUSION

Is there room for you? Absolutely.

This niche is not
oversaturated whatsoever.

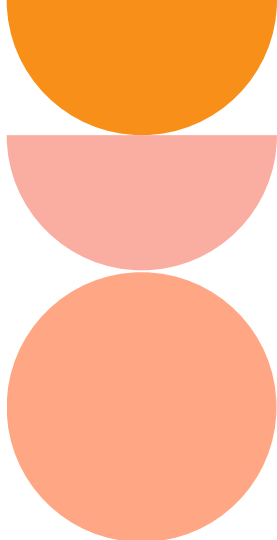


CONCLUSION

By specializing in products and services that are slightly more intricate with a higher perceived level of complexity, you will attract a high-end clientele who appreciates the result and the experience just as equally.



And that will pay top dollar for having you as their nail tech to provide such lux experience.



NOW more than ever, clients are more than willing to splurge not only on the result, BUT also on the experience, and it is why I recommend to all of my students to ***lead*** with potted soft gel systems even when they use some of the bottled options within a nail brand.

Specialty Titles:

- Premium soft gel specialist
- Japanese gel specialist
- Potted soft gel specialist
- Structure gel specialist

