

Building awareness

The National Eczema Society (NES) is calling for salon owners across the UK to help raise awareness of the condition during National Eczema Week, which runs from 11 to 18 September.

Six million people in the UK suffer from eczema, with 80% of newly diagnosed work-related skin problems caused by exposure to irritant substances. Hairdressing is highlighted by the NES as one of the high-risk jobs.

National Eczema Week aims to raise awareness among sufferers and employers of the issues surrounding the condition at work. The campaign will offer advice for both employers and employees about best practice in the workplace, as well as tips on how to manage eczema at work.

Research by the NES reveals that 20% of hand eczema sufferers experience prolonged sick leave and 23% had actually been forced to quit their jobs because of the condition.

Said Margaret Cox, chairman of the NES: "People often overlook the huge impact eczema has in the workplace. Sadly, this can be extremely detrimental to the sufferers, with some even forced to give up work because of the condition. It is vital that employers are aware of the challenges faced by their staff, so they can ensure best practice in the workplace for eczema sufferers."

