

your nail career starter guide

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE STARTING
YOUR CAREER IN NAILS.



welcome

If you're reading this, chances are you've been thinking about becoming a nail technician—but you're not quite sure where to begin.

Perhaps you're dreaming of leaving your current job, creating a better work-life balance, earning an income doing something you genuinely enjoy, or finally turning your passion for nails into a career.

Whatever has brought you here, welcome.

I created this guide to answer the questions I hear most often from aspiring nail technicians and to help you take your very first steps with confidence.

Inside, you'll find honest advice about training, costs, qualifications, starting a business and what life as a nail technician really looks like.

I hope this guide gives you the confidence to believe that your dream career is possible.

Chloe x

is a nail career right for you?

One of the biggest misconceptions about becoming a nail technician is that you have to be naturally artistic or have years of experience before you can begin.

The truth is, many successful nail technicians started with no experience at all. What matters most is your willingness to learn, practise and continually improve your skills.

A career in nails could be perfect for you if you:

- ✓ Love working with people
- ✓ Enjoy being creative
- ✓ Want flexibility around your family or lifestyle
- ✓ Dream of becoming your own boss
- ✓ Are prepared to learn and practise
- ✓ Want a career that can continue to grow with you

There is no “perfect” person to become a nail tech. Everyone starts somewhere.

what does a nail tech do?

Many people imagine that being a nail technician is simply painting nails, but there is so much more to the role.

As a professional nail technician, you'll spend your time:

- ✨ Meeting and consulting with clients
- ✨ Preparing the natural nail safely
- ✨ Applying professional nail products
- ✨ Maintaining hygiene and safety standards
- ✨ Creating beautiful, long-lasting results
- ✨ Photographing your work
- ✨ Marketing your business on social media
- ✨ Managing bookings and appointments
- ✨ Building strong client relationships
- ✨ Running and growing your own business

Being a nail technician is incredibly rewarding, but like any career, it requires commitment, continuous learning and a genuine passion for helping people feel confident.

how much can I make?

One of the questions I'm asked most often is:

“How much money can I make as a nail technician?”

The honest answer is—it depends.

Your income will vary depending on several factors, including:

- Your location
- Your level of experience
- The treatments you offer
- Your pricing
- The number of clients you see
- How often you work

Example

Let's imagine you see 20 clients each week and charge an average of £40 per appointment.

$20 \text{ clients} \times £40 = £800$ gross revenue per week

Over four weeks, that would be approximately £3,200 gross revenue per month.

It's important to remember that this is revenue, not take-home pay.

As a self-employed nail technician, you'll also need to budget for things like:

- Products and consumables
- Insurance
- Training and ongoing education
- Equipment
- Rent or salon costs (if applicable)
- Marketing
- Tax and National Insurance

The good news is that as your confidence, experience and client base grow, many nail technicians increase their prices and expand their services, creating more opportunities to grow their business over time.

what qualifications do I need?

One of the biggest misconceptions in the industry is that you can simply buy products online and start offering treatments.

While there is currently no legal requirement in the UK to hold a qualification before working as a nail technician, professional training is essential if you want to build a safe, successful and reputable business.

A quality accredited course will teach you:

- ✦ Nail anatomy and physiology
- ✦ Health, safety and hygiene
- ✦ Contraindications and client consultations
- ✦ Product knowledge
- ✦ Correct application techniques
- ✦ Safe removal methods
- ✦ Professional standards
- ✦ Client care and aftercare

Investing in education from the beginning gives you the confidence and knowledge to work safely and professionally.

what equipment do I need?

Starting a nail business doesn't mean buying every product available.

Begin with the essentials and build your kit as your confidence and client base grow.

Your starter kit may include:

- ✓ LED/UV Lamp
- ✓ Nail Files & Buffers
- ✓ Cuticle Tools
- ✓ Gel Polish System
- ✓ Nail Prep Products
- ✓ Lint-Free Wipes
- ✓ Cuticle Oil
- ✓ Hand Sanitiser
- ✓ Desk Lamp
- ✓ Storage Solutions

One of the things I'll help you with during training is understanding which products are worth investing in and where to avoid wasting money.

common beginner mistakes

Everyone starts somewhere, but avoiding these common mistakes can save you time, money and frustration.

Buying the cheapest products

Quality products give better results and often save money in the long run.

Comparing yourself to experienced nail technicians

Everyone starts as a beginner. Focus on your own progress.

Charging too little

Your prices should reflect your skill, time and business costs.

Skipping training

Social media is fantastic for inspiration, but it shouldn't replace professional education.

Expecting perfection immediately

Confidence comes with practice. Every set of nails helps you improve.

Remember—progress is always more important than perfection.

what happens after I qualify?

Completing your course is just the beginning of your journey.

After qualifying, you'll continue developing your confidence through practice and real client experience.

Your next steps may include:

- ✨ Completing your case studies
- ✨ Gaining insurance
- ✨ Building your portfolio
- ✨ Setting your prices
- ✨ Finding your first clients
- ✨ Creating social media content
- ✨ Continuing your education

The learning doesn't stop after one course, and that's one of the most exciting parts of building a career in nails.

my top advice for every beginner

If I could go back and give myself advice when I first started, this is what I'd say.

- ♥ Don't compare your beginning to someone else's chapter ten.
- ♥ Invest in quality education before expensive products.
- ♥ Practice regularly.
- ♥ Ask questions.
- ♥ Build confidence before worrying about speed.
- ♥ Don't undervalue yourself.
- ♥ Never stop learning.
- ♥ Believe in yourself even when you feel nervous.

Every successful nail technician started exactly where you are now.

why I created the academy

When I first started my own journey in the nail industry, I quickly realised how overwhelming it could feel.

There was so much information available, but very little personalised support.

As I built my salon and gained experience working with hundreds of clients, I discovered something I loved just as much as creating beautiful nails—helping others build confidence in themselves.

That's why I created The Lacquer Lounge Academy.

My mission is to empower aspiring nail technicians with the confidence, skills and business knowledge to build profitable, sustainable careers through premium, personalised education.

Every student receives individual support in a welcoming environment where no question is ever too small, because I genuinely believe that confidence is the foundation of every successful nail technician.

your next step

Every successful nail technician started exactly where you are today.

If you're ready to turn your passion into a profession, I'd love to help you begin your journey.

Choose your pathway

 Beginners Gel Polish

The perfect starting point for complete beginners.

 Builder Gel

Advance your skills and offer one of the industry's most in-demand treatments.

 E-File

Increase your speed, confidence and efficiency.

FAQ's

Am I too old to become a nail technician?

Absolutely not. Students of all ages begin successful careers in nails.

Do I need previous experience?

No. My Beginners Gel Polish course has been designed specifically for complete beginners.

Can I train while working full-time?

Yes. Many students train alongside employment before transitioning into self-employment.

How long does it take to become qualified?

You'll receive your accredited certificate after successfully completing your course and any required case studies.

Can I really make a career from nails?

Yes. With dedication, continued learning and consistency, many nail technicians build successful businesses doing something they genuinely enjoy.

let's build your future together

Thank you for taking the time to read this guide.

I hope it's given you a better understanding of what a career in nails could look like and helped answer some of the questions you may have had.

Starting something new can feel daunting, but it can also be one of the most rewarding decisions you'll ever make.

Whether you're ready to book your first course or simply have a few more questions, I'd love to hear from you.

Ready to take the next step?

 Visit The Lacquer Lounge Academy

 Get in touch

 Follow along on Instagram @thelacquerlounge_

 Explore my accredited training courses

Your future career starts with one decision. I'd love to be part of your journey.

student success

Charlotte

“I chose Chloe because she’s so inspiring. I learned so much and left feeling excited to continue my nail journey. I can’t wait to build a career from this.”

Caris

“The training was so personal and supportive. I felt nervous at first, but I left feeling confident, inspired and excited to continue.”

Luchy

“Everything was explained clearly with real salon examples. It was a 10/10 experience and I’m excited to return for my Builder Gel course.”

These are just a few of the amazing students who’ve trusted me with the start of their careers.

Visit our academy page to see all our student success stories to follow along their journey’s.