



PERSONNEL SERVICE CENTER – PERSONNEL SERVICES DIVISION – MILITARY UNIFORMS BRANCH



Uniform Board Results (FAQs):

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document provides amplifying information about recently approved Uniform & Grooming Policies contained in COMDTINST M1020.6 (series). This document does not serve to replace official policy, please refer to the Uniform Regulations for official policy language.

Fingernail Polish Color

New policy statement (M1020.6K): Will be kept clean. Fingernails shall have rounded or straight shaped nail tips. Fingernail color choice shall present a professional appearance in a business environment. Only one color may be worn and all fingernails shall match. The wearing of Fluorescent, or multi-colored polishes or nails is not authorized. Will not extend more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch beyond the fingertip. Ornate decoration (such as gems) or ornamentation of the fingernail polish (such as painted pictures or design) is not authorized. French nails are authorized with white tip only. The white tip will be no wider than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and must present a clean natural look.

Question: What color fingernail polish would be considered “Professional in a Business Environment”?

Answer: While the opinion of what is “professional” will vary by member, it is important to be open to the various colors that are inclusive to all demographics, and be mindful of how manicured fingernails now appear in the 21st century workplace. For those reasons, a color wheel is not provided. The uniform board voted to expand the colors to include, but not limited to: numerous shades of neutrals, greys, browns, greens, beiges, pinks, mauve, plum, burgundy, blues, black, white, and reds. These colors are acceptable. Professional in appearance is less based on color and more a function of the manner of application and wear. The color will

be neatly applied and selected brand should have the durability to prevent chips and damage. All nails should be clean, groomed, shaped, and free of dirt under nails.

Question: What color fingernail polish would be considered not authorized while in uniform?

Answer: Fingernail colors that are not authorized are as follows: prints/designs, metallic, glitter-style, textured colors, ombre style, color-changing polish, glow-in-the-dark, and fluorescents/neon colors. The French manicure with a white tip is the only two-toned fingernail color authorized.

Question: I am a supervisor, and I don't think a member's fingernail color is appropriate. What should I do?

Answer: The specifics of this policy and these FAQs are provided to assist supervisors in directing and guiding unit personnel in the application of approved uniform & grooming regulations. Should opinions differ in the application of this policy, appropriateness determinations can be referred to unit Commanding Officers / Officer's-in-Charge for deliberation IAW M1020.6 1.A.4. If a "currently approved" nail color is felt to be inappropriate or distracting, policy change recommendations can be made to the Uniform Program (CG PSC-PSD-mu) in accordance with COMDTINST M1020.6 (series), Making Uniform Suggestions. Further determinations of appropriateness or questions concerning this policy and application shall be directed to the Uniform Program, (HQS-SG-CGPSC-PSD-MU@uscg.mil).

Question: What happens if they are chipped?

Answer: To maintain the professional appearance of the fingernail, damaged or chipped fingernail color should be repaired in a timely manner (1-2 days). If matching polish is not available or the chipped colors cannot be repaired in a timely manner, the polish should be removed or changed.

Question: What shape can fingernails be?

Answer: All fingernails will be filed smooth and have rounded or straight shaped tips. This applies to males and females.

Question: I am a man – can I wear fingernail polish?

Answer: Current policies for fingernail polish only authorize polish to be worn on females.