

4 Steps To Keep Your Salon or Spa Stocked



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It's the most annoying and embarrassing feeling in the world when you forget to re-stock your supplies and suddenly find yourself out of everything (or the one thing you need for a service with the client sitting in your chair.) We have all done it, and it's usually because we're busy or failed to plan. Thankfully, keeping your supplies stocked doesn't have to be hard if you take a systematic approach. Here are four ways to stay on track to stay stocked.

- 1. Do weekly inventory.** Take inventory at least once per week so you always have a good feel for what you have (or don't have) or need on a regular basis. Keep a spreadsheet that lists all your supplies and tracks what you use per week and what you need to order and buy for the week or in the near future. Having trouble remembering to check? Stick to checking the same day every week; soon it will become part of your routine.
- 2. Buy supplies that you use most often in bulk.** For example, if you use one-time-use supplies like nail files or cotton, buy as much as you can store at one time. This will prevent you from having to purchase it every time you buy supplies. Buying products that store well in bulk will save you money in the long-run and even when you are low, you still have enough until you can get back to the supply house to stock up. Not sure what to buy in bulk? If you use one or more items/products in more than 50% of every service, buy those items in bulk.
- 3. Order through a product rep.** Usually product representatives are great at keeping you on track with products and supplies. When you buy, they make a commission off the sale, so ordering through them will ensure you get a call, text, email or visit every couple of weeks. Their communication to sell is a great reminder for you. It helps you to stay on track with what you need and allows you to conveniently order on a regular basis.
- 4. Align your shopping for business needs with home needs.** Stocking up shouldn't be reserved just for service products. If you're an independent contractor or salon owner, you also have to think about other salon supplies like paper towels, drinks for clients, toilet paper, etc. Align these purchases with the purchases you make for your household. If you buy paper towels once a month for your home, buy one or two more for your salon too.

Keeping up with what you need and what you use is all about staying organized. If you take a little time each week to put ordering and buying protocols in place, you will find that it is much easier to get and stay stocked up on what you need regularly!

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