100 Hot Summer Looks For You

TAKE OUR CHALLENGE

Be Flirty, Fun & **Fearless**

EDUCATION SPECIAL Tips To Boost Kids' Brain **Power**

> YOUR **STRESS**

How To Find Your Mr. Right

THE ESSENCE INTERVIEW

The President On Your Health, **Home, Family And Future** A Special Message From Michelle



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Pedicurve **Foot File** (\$13, sephora .com). Vorks of Art

Nail design isn't solely for beauty risk takers anymore. Everyone is getting in on the act, turning nail tips into portable pieces of art. While some tricks are best served up by the pros, others are DIYfriendly. Get inspired by a few of our faves:

1. VIBRANT THING

The white base coat makes the neon hue pop: Revion Nail Art Neon (\$8. drugstores).

2. READY PEDI

These are shaped just for toes; Sally Hansen Real Nail Polish Strips Pedicure Collection (\$10, drugstores).

3. MAJOR BLING

Accent one nail with sprinkles; Ciaté Caviar Manicure Set (\$25, sephora.com).

4. FAUX & FAB

Just stick on and go; MAC Ruffian Manicure (\$25 for a set of 24, mac cosmetics com)

5. TRENDY DESIGN

Color blocking 101: Start with a blue base, like Joe Fresh in Fluo Blue (\$4, joefresh.com).









PEDI POINTERS

Sephora Collection

1. CHOOSE YOUR FOOTWEAR WISELY

Flat flip-flops can contribute to cracked heels because of how often your feet touch the ground. One solution: Trade them for flip-flop styles with a slight heel. Another: Use a callus treatment or, says Julie Serquinia, owner of Paint Shop in Los Angeles, "soak them in lemon or lime juice. The acids will help break down the rough skin."

- 2. ONLY CLIP LOOSE CUTICLES "Carefully snip the skin that is detached," Serquinia advises. "Skin that is still attached is providing protection."
- 3. HAVE FUN! If you play it safe on your fingernails, be fearless on your toes. Trick out your pedi, or amp neutrals with a shiny top coat or sparkle.

NAIL NEWS

Peptides, the wonder antiaging ingredient in skin care products, are now popping up in nail products. Our pick: Dermelect ME Anti-Aging Colored Nail Lacquer (\$14, dermelect.com). It strengthens nails and has built-in UV protection.



IS MY SALON SAFE?

Ask these questions, says Tricia Lee, owner of the Polish Bar of Brooklyn:

- Are new tools used for each client? Orange cuticle sticks, emery boards and buffers are all porous and can trap and hold bacteria. Safest bet: Bring your own tools.
- Do they use pipeless footbaths? If not, the dirt that gets sucked into the pipes of the jets can spit back out around your feet. Safest bet: Ask to turn the jets off.
- Are razors being used? If you're not visiting a podiatrist, the answer should be no! Safest bet: Ask for a callus treatment or DIY with an elixir like CND Sea Serum.

GET IT! >>

For polishes on previous page:

- 1. \$8, drugstores
- 2. \$10, inglotusa.com
- 3. \$20, saks.com
- 4. \$8, barielle.com
- 5. \$8, essie.com
- 6. \$9, Ulta
- 7. \$18, narscosmetics.com
- 8. \$23, dior.com