

What the Law Says:

RCW 69.50.575

1) Cannabis health and beauty Aids are not subject to the regulations and penalties of this chapter that apply to marijuana, marijuana concentrates, or marijuana-infused products.

(2) For purposes of this section, "cannabis health and beauty aid" means a product containing parts of the cannabis plant and which:

(a) Is intended for use only as a topical application to provide therapeutic benefit or to enhance appearance;

(b) Contains a THC concentration of not more than 0.3 percent;

(c) Does not cross the blood-brain barrier; and

(d) Is not intended for ingestion by humans or animals.

SOURCE:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=69.50.575>

NOTE: Consumers should recognize that rules and regulations constantly change and that hard copy documents, such as this brochure, may not reflect current law. Therefore, it is generally wise to consider online information sources as the best information available.

Washington State Licensing Requirements:

The state of Washington requires that anyone providing massage therapy graduate from a state-approved school with at least 500 hours of training and pass a licensing exam. Licensed Massage Therapist's (LMT's) must renew their licenses every year and complete a minimum number of continuing education hours every two years.

Anyone who does not have a license to practice massage in Washington State is in violation of the law.



How to Report Problems:

If you encounter unlicensed practice, or observe inappropriate actions by a licensed massage therapist, you can report the matter by calling the Washington State Department of Health at **(360) 236-4700** or by using the online complaint form at:

www.doh.wa.gov.

MESSAGE CONSUMER'S GUIDE TO:

CHABA and Cannabis Topicals

IN WASHINGTON STATE

PROVIDED BY THE:



www.mywsmta.org

Advocating for massage therapy
as a recognized and respected
healthcare profession.

BROCHURE DESIGNED BY:

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Important Considerations for Consumers

Real, Professional Massage

The benefits of therapeutic massage include relaxation, stress relief, recovery from exercise, healing from injury and much more. Unfortunately, consumers are not always certain as to how to identify properly licensed massage professionals and this is especially important in order to prevent harm or injury during your sessions.

In Washington State, the Department of Health licenses massage therapists and classifies them as healthcare providers, typically with a designation of LMT. By law, LMT's are required to have their credentials on display in their place of business, if you do not see these documents it is completely appropriate for you to inquire further regarding your providers credentials.

Also, LMT's in Washington State are required to conduct an intake process. This process allows your therapist to better understand what you want from your sessions and identify any reasons massage may not be appropriate for you. Your therapist will want to know about any current or past injuries or conditions to avoid doing harm during your sessions. Massage therapists who don't ask these kinds of questions, or do not do proper intake protocol may be putting your health at risk.

CHABA vs. stronger Cannabis Infused Topicals:

Under current law, LMT's are only allowed to use Cannabis Health and Beauty Aid topicals during your massage. Stronger cannabis infused products are restricted from use and could even carry criminal penalties if used improperly. Because of this restriction your therapist may choose not to allow the use of a client supplied topical products as their contents may be in question.

CHABA	STRONGER CANNABIS TOPICALS
NO MORE THAN 0.3% THC	MORE THAN 0.3% THC
Non-Intoxicating	Can be Intoxicating (Can be very strong, beware of dosage!)
Enough THC to provide therapeutic benefits	More does not necessarily mean better
REMOVED OUT OF the WA controlled Substance Act 6/2015	Still considered a Schedule 1 drug everywhere
WITHIN SCOPE OF PRACTICE	OUT OF SCOPE OF PRACTICE AND A CRIMINAL VIOLATION

Professional Organizations:

Many massage therapists belong to professional organizations and you should feel free to ask your therapist about their professional affiliations. For instance, this brochure is provided by the Washington State Massage Therapy Association (WSMTA).

Other professional associations include the American Massage Therapy Association (AMTA) and the Associated Massage and Bodywork Professionals (ABMP).

More information is available on these organizations on their websites:

www.mywsmta.org
www.amtamassage.org
www.abmp.com



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