



Module 8 : Artificial Nails

- What equipment you need to do artificial nails
- How to add plastic nail tips
- How to make sure that nails are the right length for acrylic tips
- How to perfectly finish off acrylic nails

By the end of this chapter, you will know:

- What equipment you need to do artificial nails
- How to add plastic nail tips
- How to make sure that nails are the right length for acrylic tips
- How to apply nail dehydrator and primer
- How to perfectly finish off acrylic nails

8:1 Artificial Nails: What you Need:

Unlike basic manicures, artificial nails require a lot of work.

Get your kit ready



As time goes on, you will perfect your technique. For now, it is time to learn the basics.

What do you need?

- A plastic nail brush
- Nail polish remover
- Cuticle remover and cuticle pushers
- Nail clippers, nail files, and buffing blocks
- Nail tips; let the client choose these, but there are plenty of options out there
- Nail glue, to attach the tips
- A nail dehydrator
- Hand wash
- Lint-free nail wipes

- Non-acid nail primer
- Acrylic nail liquid
- Acrylic powder
- Cuticle oil

8.2: Adding the Plastic Nail Tips

8.2a: Make sure the client's hands are oil-free

Clean hands and remove any nail polish



The chances are if your client likes having artificial tips they take care of their hands in other ways. This means there is likely to be some form of moisturiser on them, which can interfere with the tip application. As such, you need to give their hands a good wash. In addition to doing this, use the nail polish remover to remove any excess oil from around their fingernails.

8.2b: The cuticles

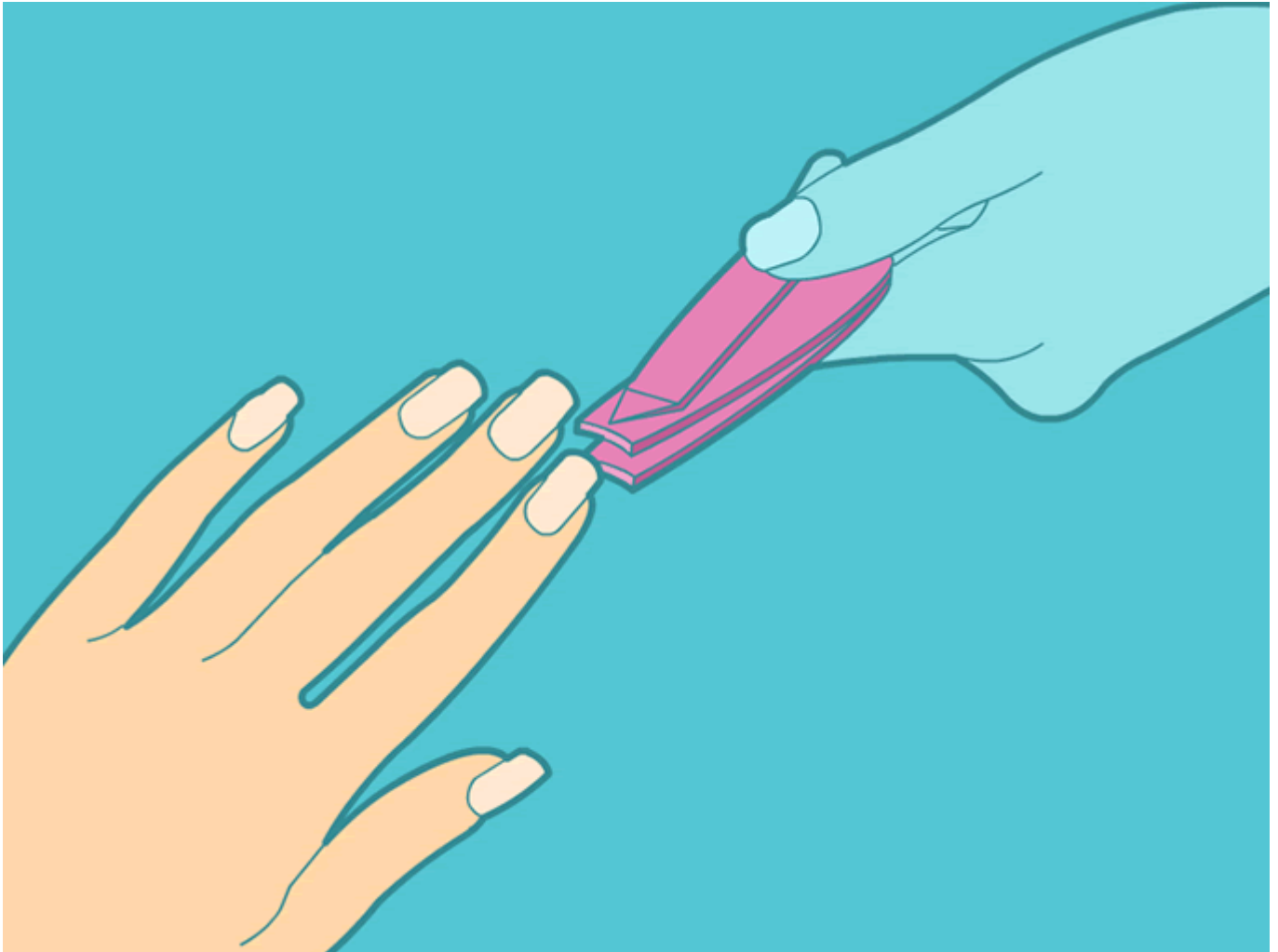
The cuticles



Tackle the cuticles as you would when doing a manicure. Remove the cuticles from the nail plate. Again, it is worth stressing here that the aim is not to disrupt the cuticle-nail bed barrier. Doing this can cause a lot of pain during the acrylic nail process and can lead to a bacterial infection.

8.2c: Making sure the nails are short enough for the acrylic tips

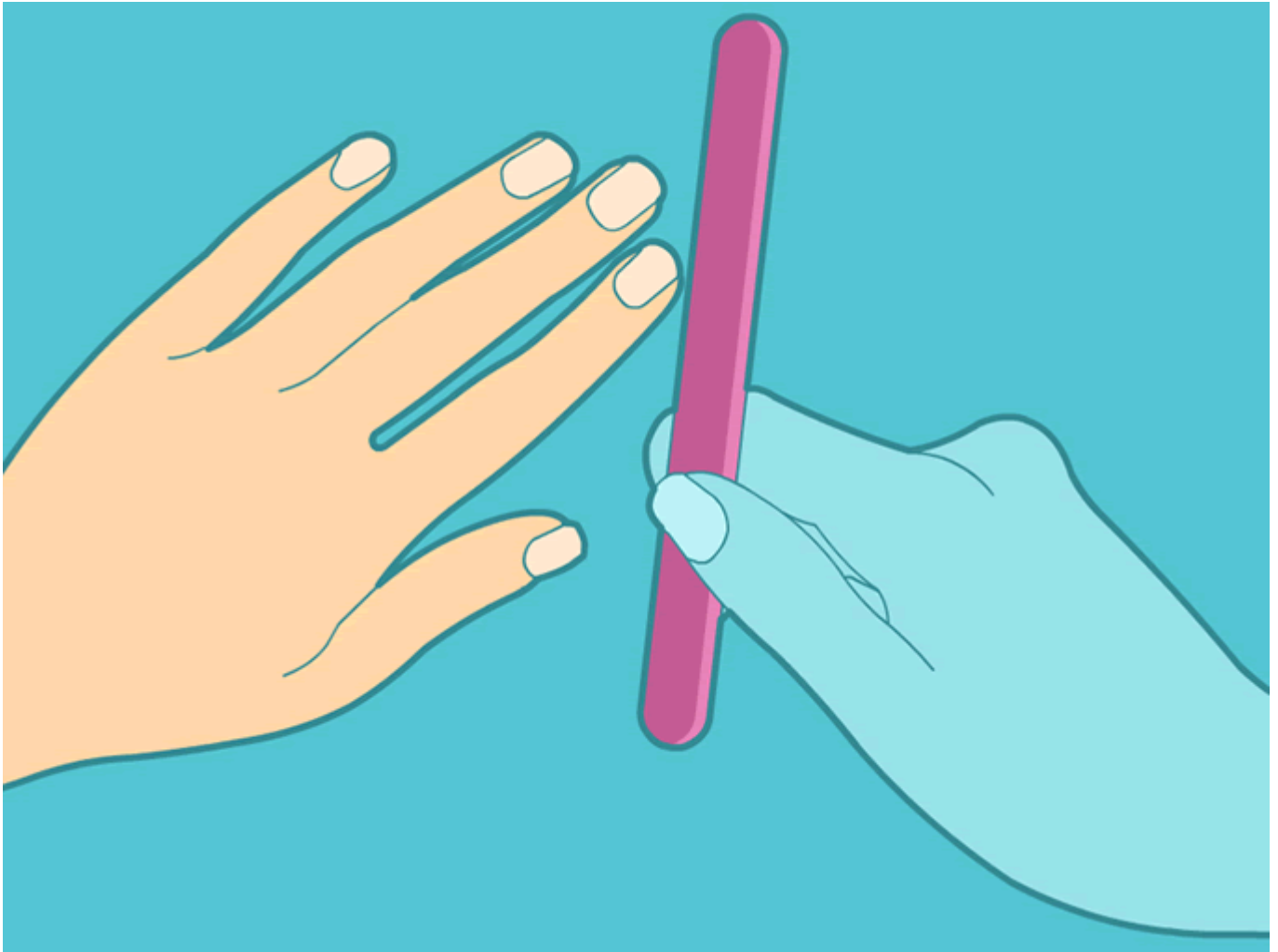
Trim nails if necessary



Cut the natural nails as short as possible and make sure they are a relatively uniform shape/length using the file.

8.2d: Buff the nails

Buff



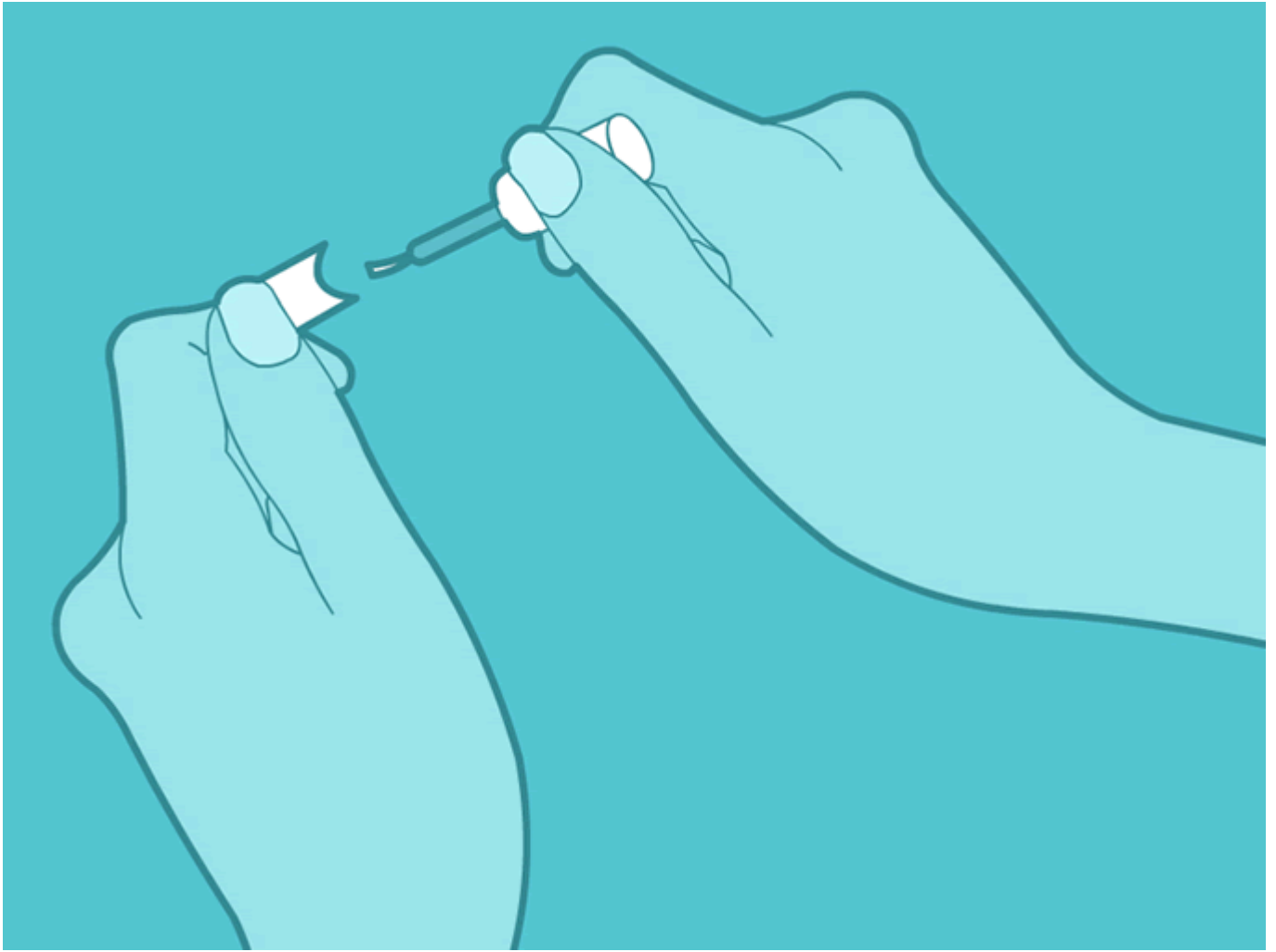
Take the buffer and use it to remove shine from the nail plate. Doing this ensures the tips are easier to apply.

Buffing and filing the nails can leave some shavings on them, which can make it harder to apply tips. To prevent this from being a problem, use a nail cleanser.

8.2e: Applying the tips

It should go without saying that the tips need to fit from one side of the nail to the other. As such, it is unlikely that you are going to be able to dive straight in there and apply them without a little prep work. In other words, you are going to need to trim your tips down.

Glue



After making sure all 10 tips fit, you need to glue them one at a time. Apply the glue, then create a 45-degree angle between the tip and the nail. Push it down into the nail, so that any excess glue present leaves.

Hold down for 30 seconds while glue dries



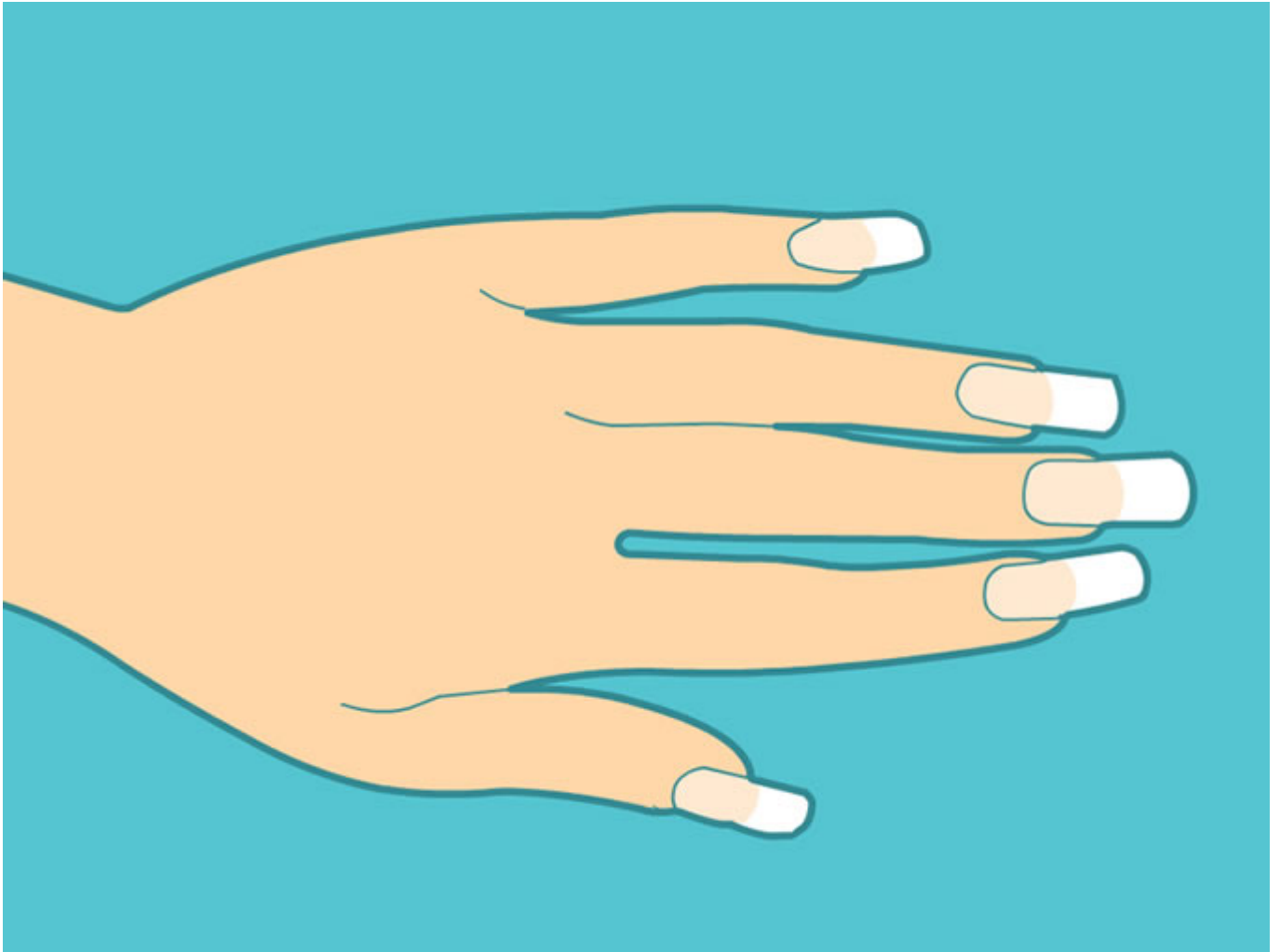
You need to hold each tip down for 30 seconds.

Remove excess glue



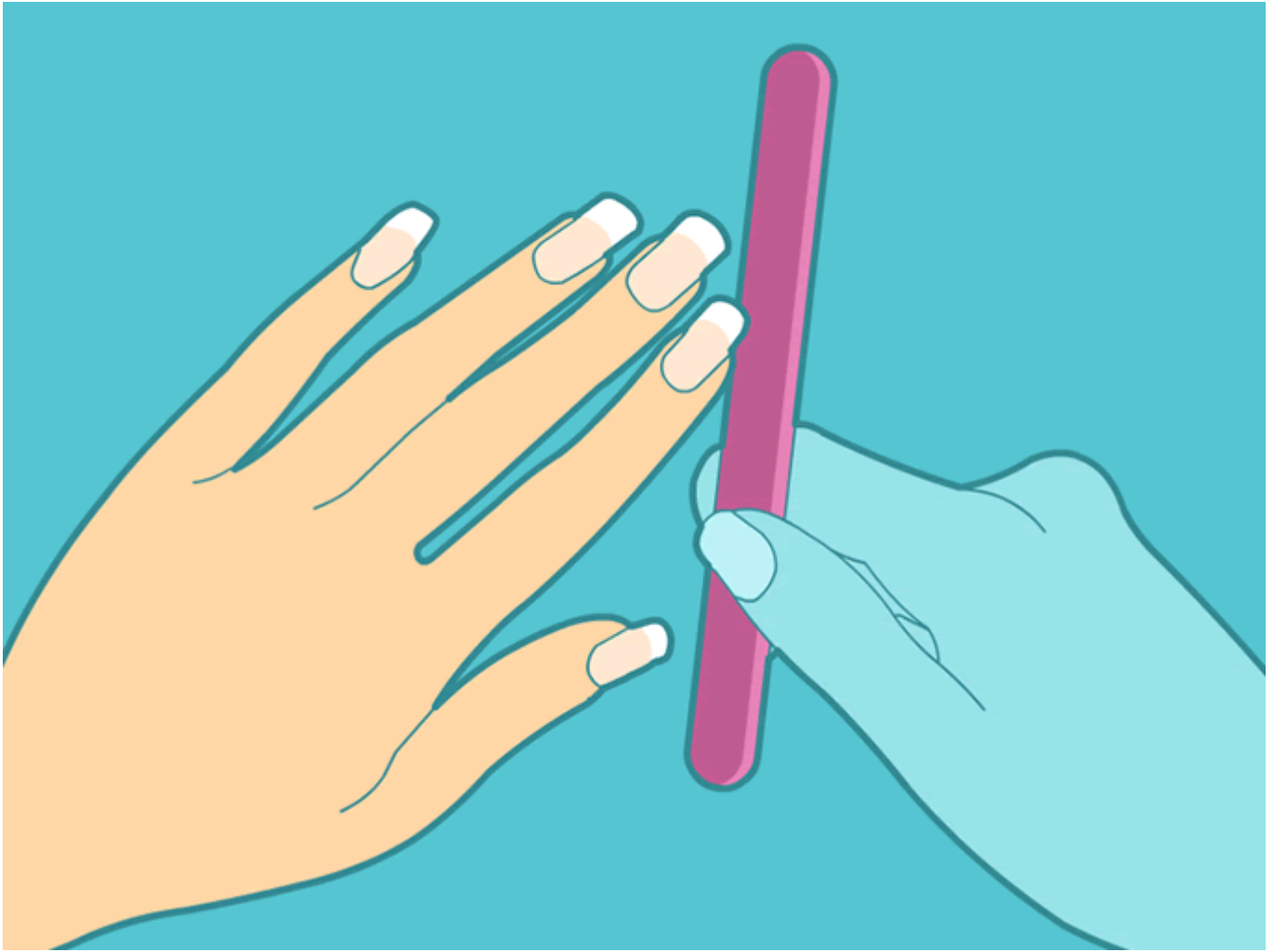
Use an alcohol-based solution on a cotton pad to wipe away excess glue. Do not worry if this leaves some cotton behind, you can always file it away later.

Leave to dry



After completing all the tips and giving them adequate time to dry, you can begin filing them down so that they adopt the customer's desired shape. Most tips also come with powders and polishes that are designed to blend the tip line. Make sure you use these as and when is necessary.

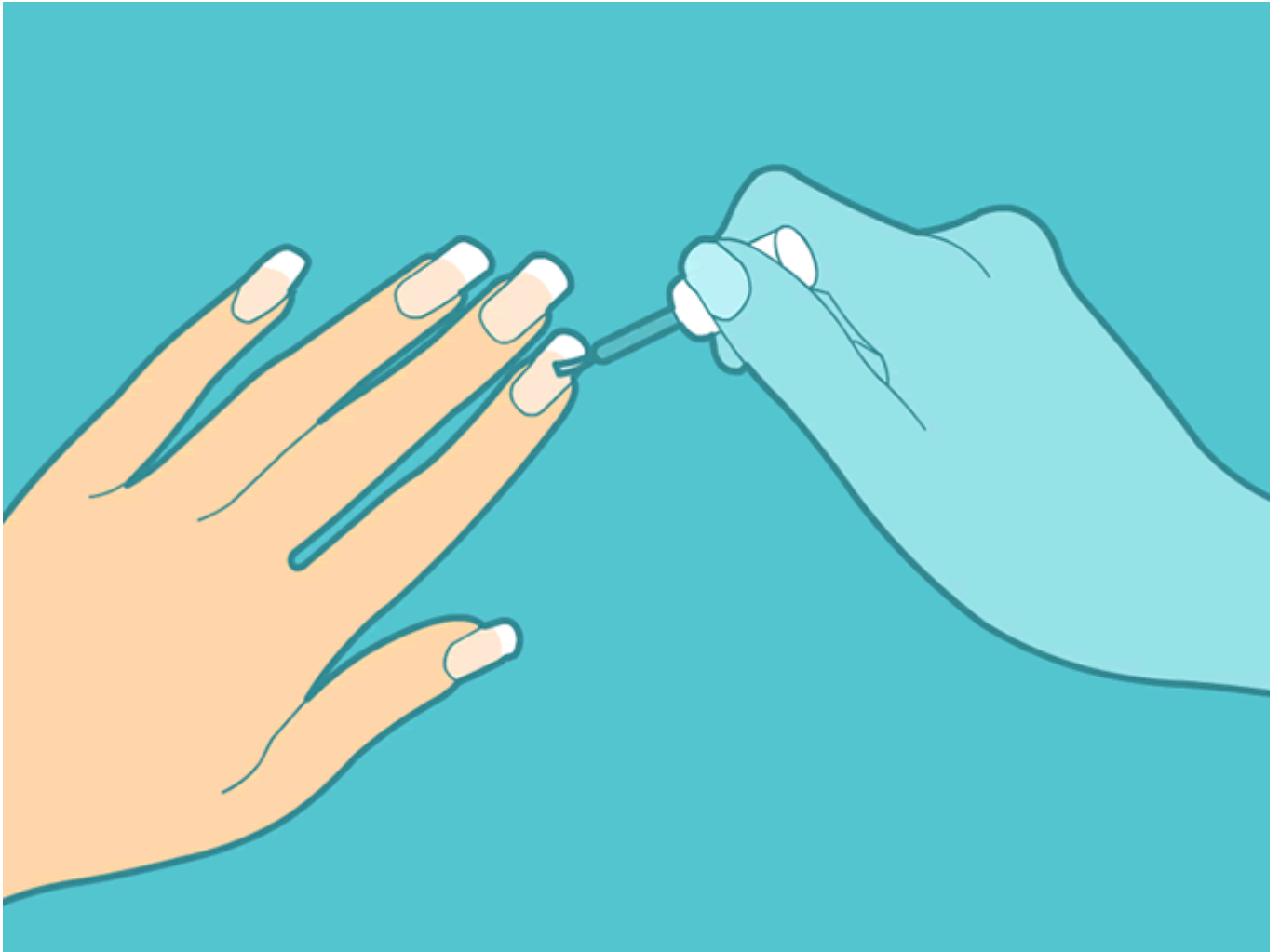
File the artificial nails to shape



8.2f: Applying the nail dehydrator and primer

Nail dehydrator tends to evaporate very fast, so you need to move quickly here. It is also necessary to know that you only need to use a little and you should not apply it to the nail tips themselves. Instead, apply sparingly to a nail, then complete all 10 before resealing.

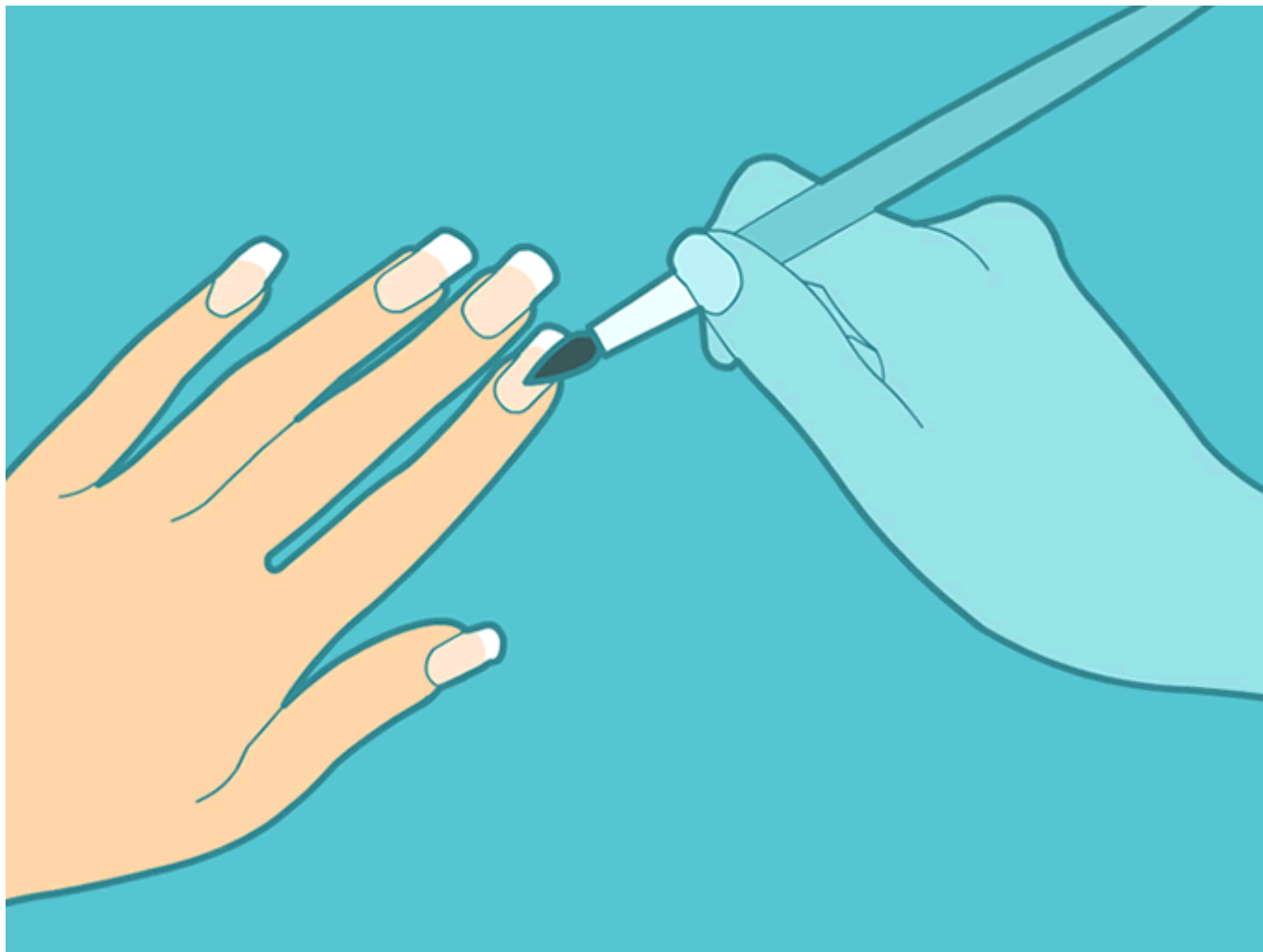
Use a primer



Once the nail dehydrator evaporates, use a non-acid based primer. Acid-based can sting, and is difficult to work with day after day.

8.2g: Applying the acrylic

Apply the acrylic



To get the acrylic materials ready, pour it into a container and stir a little with an acrylic brush. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when it comes to striking the right balance between powder and liquid acrylic, but you will probably find you learn your own techniques as time goes on.

Starting a few millimetres above the cuticle, begin applying the acrylic mixture to the nails. Do not apply it to the cuticle itself. Move upwards in a single stroke and allow it to dry. What you should have at the end is a nice curved blend that does not make the tips too obvious.

8.2h: Finishing the acrylic nails off

The finishing touches



Now all you need to do is finish the nails. Usually this means more shaping, and maybe applying some décor and polish. You then need to leave the nails to set using your salon's equipment.

Depending on how fast the client's nails grow and how well the nails have been maintained, the client will probably need to return for an infill approximately every 2-3 weeks.

8.3: Instruction Videos

Acrylic Nails - 11m 37s

An instructional video showing how to do acrylic nails using a form

Acrylic Nails - 12m 33s

An instructional video showing how to do a full acrylic nails using a tip

Go and Practise

Estimated time: 60 minutes

Find a friend or family member (preferably one whose nails are not in perfect condition / short) and practise putting some artificial nails on them following the step by step instructions as set out in this module of the course.

Module Summary

In this module you learned how to apply acrylic nails. You found out about the equipment involved, as well as how to prepare the nails. In addition, you learned about keeping the client safe, while delivering excellent results.

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