

BEST MANICURE/NAIL SALON

Essentials Nail & Body Boutique, Branford

If there's one way to feel instantly pampered, it's shelling out a bit of cash to get your nails done by a professional. When manis and pedis go right, they leave your nails looking healthier and shinier and you feeling polished and in a positive frame of mind.

Lynn Torello, owner of Essentials Nail & Body Boutique in Branford, understands this.

Keeping her clients satisfied week in and week out is among the reasons readers voted the boutique on Montowese Avenue the best manicure on the Shoreline.

Another is her switch from acrylics to natural nail care—even at the risk of compromising business.

Yes, acrylic nails are more permanent than regular polish. They're easier to maintain. They're also a quick fix for strengthening and lengthening short, natural nails.

Still, Torello saw, one too many times, how their removal left her clients' nails paper-thin, brittle, and splitting, sometimes irreversibly so. And, as durable as acrylic nails are, Torello knew that toxic

chemicals in the acrylic could seep through the nail bed into the bloodstream.

As it turned out, business didn't suffer. It got busier.

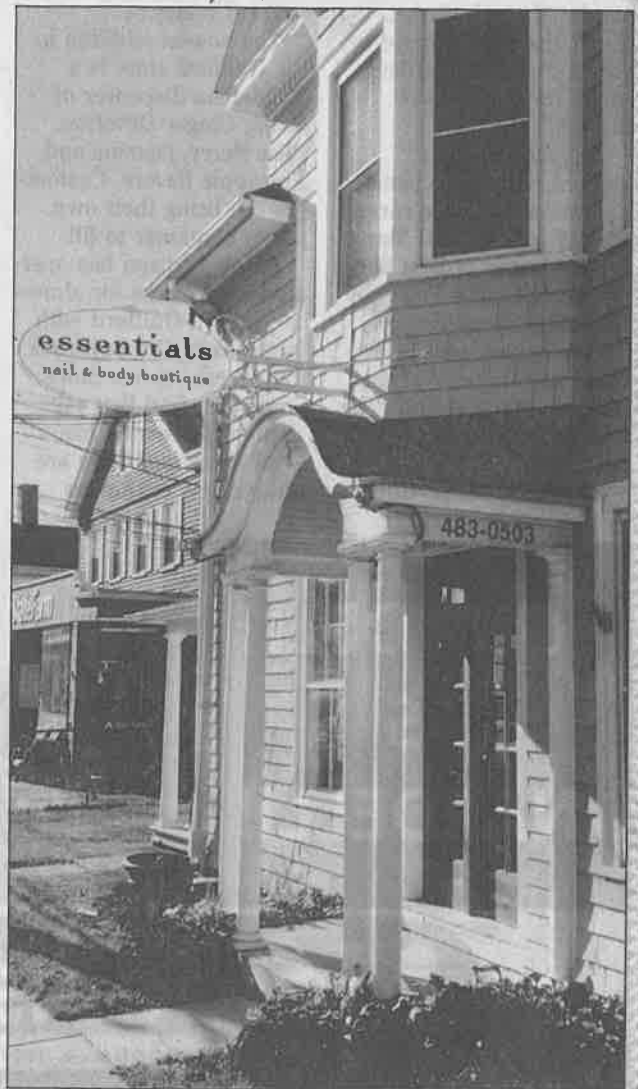
"Some women were aware of the dangers, some just didn't want to breathe in the chemicals," said the attractive, gentle-natured grandmother of two in the high-ceilinged majestic space of the 1736 former parsonage that houses her business.

Then there's the premium she puts on cleanliness, maintaining a special drawer of implements for each of her clients. And the way she sterilizes and disinfects equipment after every client and keeps the place immaculate.

Said Kathryn of West Haven, who was getting a manicure last week: "Lynn takes pride in doing what she does and makes us feel beautiful," she said. "I've met a lot of her loyal clients and I think we all agree Lynn is the best."

116 Montowese St. Branford,
203-483-0503; essentialsnailandbodyboutique.com.

— Lisa Reisman



Kelly Goddard / For Hearst Connecticut Media