

# Waxing away that unwanted hair

OK gals, what's the only thing worse than kissing a man with five o'clock shadow?

Making love to a man when you have the nubs. You know — down there.

"Some women have a lot of hair around here and they want to get rid of it," says Jacqueline Joseph, indicating her upper thighs. "We call it the bikini area. You can imagine how painful it would be making love with whiskers down there. Forget it."

But there is an alternative. Joseph says she is the only professional hair-removal specialist in Eugene using the new "non-conventional" technique of removing hair with wax.

False images could easily leap to mind of those uninitiated to the finer points of depilatory wax — a leather-heavy lady hovering sinisterly over a semi-willing victim, gleefully dripping hot wax from a candle onto various nether regions.

Sorry folks, this isn't a rehash of the Bloomingdale palimony trial.

The technique of removing hair with wax has been around quite a while and has gained considerably more respect than the aforementioned scenario.

In addition, Joseph believes that the new method she uses reduces the pain factor to almost nil for many people.

The advantage of removing hair by wax is that, ideally, it pulls the hair out by the root, which is based well beneath the surface of the skin.

It takes the hair a few weeks to grow back again, so legs, underarms and bikini areas stay smooth considerably longer than when shaved.

And when the hair does break the surface, says Joseph, it is not as coarse or as thick as shaven hair.

"Freedom from razors," is the biggest advantage, says Joseph. "It's great."

"No more irritated skin, no more nubs. Once they start with



Jacqueline Joseph uses a new technique to remove hair "less painfully," although the level of pain depends on the person.

me, they never go back to razors," she notes.

Previously, Joseph removed hair by the "conventional" method, which involved pasting the hot wax onto the skin with a wooden spatula, adhering a fibrous tape onto the wax and then lifting the wax and presumably the hair from the surface of the skin.

Ouch. The "unconventional" procedure, which was released onto the general market last February by a California-based company, first rolls the wax onto a polypropylene band of tape. It is then applied to the skin and

immediately pulled off.

"The advantage is that we're able to put the wax on so fast that it stays hot, and the warmth keeps the hair shaft open," says Joseph. "The hair moves out easier, and that's why it's less painful."

Just how painful is "less painful?"

"On a scale of one to ten? That's hard to say," Joseph replies. "Every person has a different threshold of pain. Most of the people I've worked with say it has no rating. Others say five, or maybe eight. But some people are babies."

In fact, one of the most com-

mon questions prospective clients ask Joseph is how much it hurts.

"All I can say is that I've tried all the methods, and this is the least painful. It just depends on the person," she says.

The most common request is for hair removal below the knees, which costs \$20 and takes from 20 to 40 minutes.

Defoliating the armpits runs \$8, and the bikini area job goes for \$10.

She has various other packages available, but does not remove hair above the seventh vertebra. That work must be performed by a

licensed cosmetologist.

Joseph, who also performs nail-manicuring services, is located above the Attic Dresser at 350 East 11th Avenue.

She stresses that she takes customers by appointment only, and that all sessions are private.

A full-body hair-removal job would run about \$250, Joseph guesses, but she doesn't provide that service for a simple reason.

"Honey," she mildly scolds a reporter, "have you ever seen a lady in Eugene that hairy?"

By Sean Meyers  
Photo by Mark Pynes

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