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YOUR SLIMMEST SHAPE

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Facific magazines



Forget expensive creams. You can shave years off your face just by shaping your eyebrows. Read on for expert tips and tricks to achieve a salon-quality look in your own home.

Create your ideal shape

Plucking can make a huge difference to how open and alert your eyes look. Director of EyebrowExperts Svetlana Burckhardt recommends shaping eyebrows along their natural arch to achieve the most flattering results.

Want to create your perfect shape?

1 STAND IN FRONT of the mirror and hold a make-up brush beside your nose. Line the brush up with the outside edge of your nostril and the inside corner of your eye. Where the brush crosses your brow area is where your eyebrow should ideally start.

2 TO FIND OUT where your eyebrow should finish, simply hold the brush beside your nostril and line up with the outside corner of your eye.

3 TRIM EYEBROWS "Trimming before tweezing helps remove bulk and reveal brow shape," Burckhardt adds.

4 FOR CLOSE-SET EYES, Burckhardt recommends tweezing a few more hairs at the beginning of the eyebrow, as this can make eyes appear wider.

5 "FOR WIDE-SET EYES, leave slightly more hair at the beginning of the brow to help create the illusion of less space between the eyes," she advises.

ESSENTIAL SHAPING DO'S

- Use a good magnifying mirror and invest in a quality pair of tweezers.
- Always pluck after a shower, as your pores will have expanded, making plucking easier and less painful.

DEFINITE SHAPING DONT'S

- Wax or tint at home. Leave this job to the professionals because it can go disastrously wrong very quickly.

- Remove more than one hair at a time – you can easily get carried away!

Enhance brows with...

BROW PENCILS Pencils are waxy and can look obvious unless you take care. Rather than drawing hard lines, apply short, feathering strokes and choose a shade lighter than your hair colour.

EYE POWDERS If you're not getting the effect you want with a pencil, try a powder instead. They produce a softer look and are also very easy to use.

TINTING Beauty therapists and eyebrow experts can change the colour of your brows completely, creating a dramatic difference to your appearance and giving you an instant style overhaul.

Waxing versus plucking

"Both techniques give similar results, but a combination of waxing, plucking and trimming provides the ideal shape," explains Burckhardt. Waxing is quick and removes a section of hair at once, but it won't grab the ultra fine, short re-growth hair. Burckhardt recommends plucking for this type of hair, while regular trimming will keep brows looking full and healthy.

Expert styling secrets

1 LIGHTEN UP It's far more flattering to go a shade lighter than to fill in or tint brows too dark, according to eyebrow expert Sharon-Lee Clarke.

2 COMFORTABLY NUMB If you can't bear the pain of tweezing, pick up teething gel from your local chemist and apply to the area before plucking.

3 PICTURE THIS If you're having your brows professionally shaped for the first time, have a clear idea of what you want to achieve. Bring a picture of a celebrity or friend with great eyebrows as a reference point.

1 MAC Impeccable Brow Pencil, \$30. 2 L'Oréal Paris Brow Stylist, \$23.95. 3 Elite Comb Brush, \$5.65. 4 The Body Shop Brow & Liner Kit, \$28.95. 5 Dermalogica Age Reversal Eye Complex, \$95. 6 Benefit High Brow, \$39. 7 Tweezerman Slant Tweezer, \$39.95. 8 Elizabeth Arden Dual Perfection Brow Shaper & Eyeliner, \$42.