

Electrolysis is the ONLY FDA-approved¹ method to permanently remove all types and colors of hair.

Hair removal comparison

Method	Process	Body parts	Skin types	Considerations	Maintenance
Electrolysis	A micro pulse of current is applied to the hair follicle, which eliminates the hair and the potential for that hair to regrow.	All	All	Mild pain to virtually painless.	No maintenance* required because hair is permanently removed.
Laser	A laser heats the melanin around the hair, which eliminates the hair.	All, including eyebrows if eye protection is used.	Less effective for dark skinned/dark haired individuals or those with light-colored hair.	Can be painful; mild to significant irritation and skin discoloration is possible.	Though hair may be permanently reduced, lifetime maintenance is required.
Waxing and sugaring	A thick layer of wax (or a heated sugar mixture) is applied to the skin and pulled off with paper, removing the unwanted hair by the roots.	Not suitable for some sensitive areas of the body; sugaring especially may not be a good choice for nipples or genitals.	Not suitable for people with diabetes or circulatory problems.	Significant pain, especially in sensitive areas.	Lifetime maintenance is required.
Shaving	Wet skin is prepared with cream or soap lather and shaved with a sharp blade (razor).	Not suitable for some sensitive areas of the body.	All	Low-cost option. Painless but may cause irritation.	Lifetime maintenance is required.
Depilatories	Chemical depilatories dissolve hair into a jelly- like substance, which is wiped away.	Not suitable around the eyes, and other sensitive areas of the body.	Not suitable for chemically sensitive skin.	Painless but may cause irritation; strong chemical odor.	Lifetime maintenance is required.
Tweezing and threading	Individual hairs are removed from the follicle by tweezers. Threading removes hair by twisting hair in a thread and seesawing across the skin.	Face and unwanted individual hairs; not suitable for large areas of hair removal.	All	Can be painful and time-consuming. Not recommended for hormonally induced hairs.	Lifetime maintenance is required.

^{*}Changes in health, such as hormones or medicines, may cause new hair follicles to develop hair in previously treated areas.

¹FDA, "Removing Hair Safely," www.fda.gov, June 2010, retrieved May 2012.