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Shaving 101

Products we love

BY ERICA CORSANO; PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERIC LEVIN

Lather up, boys, and check out our round-up of the best shaving products around. Say goodbye to nicks and get ready for an oh-so-close clean shave. Ahhh ...

1. Chrome razor from Merkur, at Stoddard's, Copley, \$25
2. L'Occitane After-Shave Balm with Shea Butter and Birchwood, at L'Occitane, \$25
3. Jack Black Beard Lube Conditioning Shave, at Sephora, \$15
4. Anthony Sport Pre-shave Oil, at Lord & Taylor, \$15
5. Proraso Pre and After Shaving Cream, at Louis Boston, \$14
6. Jack Black Cool Moisture Cream, at Sephora, \$20
7. Shave INC Ivory Razor, at Louis Boston, \$60
8. Simpson Shave Brush and Chubby, at Stoddard's, Copley, \$175
9. Aveda Men's mild hypo-allergenic shaving cream, at Giacomo and Rondi, \$12
10. Shave INC. Alum Block for nicks and cuts, at Louis Boston, \$16
11. Dr. Harris and Co. Shaving Stick, at Louis Boston, \$16
12. Cosmetic Lad Facial Cream, at Lush, \$16.45
13. a/MEN/ity Hair Raising shave brush and Original Pink shave cream, at Splash at The Sports Club/LA, \$29 and \$19
14. Proraso Shaving Soap, at Louis Boston, \$10
15. Castle Forbes Lavender Aftershave Balm, at Stoddard's, Copley, \$45
16. Apivita Express Men Aftershave Balm and Face & Eye Cream Stackable Duo Jars, at www.newlondonpharmacy.com, \$25

Here are some shaving tips to live by from expert Dwight Schultheis, founder of a/Men/ity Inc., a fabulous new Waltham-based national men's grooming company:

1. Drench your shave brush with hot water and lather For best results, shave during or immediately after a hot shower. Run the brush under hot water until soaked. With your finger, smear a pea-size amount of shave cream across the crown of the badger hairs. When lathering, move the brush in tight, circular motions, starting on one side of your face and slowly moving to the other. Finding the perfect balance between the wetness of the brush and the amount of shave cream will take a few attempts. Lathering hydrates your skin and lifts beard hair to achieve close shaves.

2. Use a sharp razor and rinse it often Many men have never received proper instruction on the art of razor handling. It's simple - apply a light pressure to the razor while shaving to achieve a smooth, irritation-free appearance. A high-quality, sharp razor is a must for a close shave. Rinse the razor with hot water frequently to avoid clogging the blades. Shave in the direction the beard hair grows (i.e., shave with the grain). If you don't know which way your hair grows, run your hands across your beard in different directions - if it's coarse, you are moving your hands against the grain. Only shave once - never shave the same area twice unless you re-lather. When you're done, splash your face with cold water to close the pores and minimize inflammation. Don't forget to keep your brush clean by squeezing the hairs to get out excess shave cream and rinsing the bristles thoroughly. Shake the water out and stand the brush up to dry and you're done.

3. Nourish your face after each shave Razor and skin are hardly friends. Using an intensely nourishing treatment will reduce epidermal irritation and heal your face. After-shave lotion is fully loaded with botanicals and anti-oxidants that combat common skin ailments: dryness, sun damage, razor burn, and environmental pollutants. After shaving, pat your face dry and apply a pea-size amount of after-shave lotion by gently massaging it into your beard area. It should go on quickly, absorb instantly, and leave your skin feeling fresh and energized. It's the secret to retaining healthy skin and a smooth face.

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