

## THE ULTIMATE SHAVE

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**W**e all know how good it is to have a smooth close shave. Here are a few tips to make sure it happens every time. A daily shave doesn't mean you have to put up with razor burn or other problems that arise. The important thing to remember is every one of us is different and what works well for you might not be the best for the next guy.

**INVEST IN A SHAVING BRUSH**

This is the first step to improving your shave. Badger hair is best as it holds the warm moisture so it makes the best lather and Boar is also popular. A brush allows you to use quality shaving soap or cream, look for a shaving soap suited to the water you get – some shaving soaps work well in hard water others don't. Using a brush gets the lather to the

base of your beard so really work it in to get rid of the tiny bubbles and remove dirt left at the base of the hairs. It also helps your beard stand up ready for the razor. For many guys this is all that's required to enjoy shaving and you will see a marked improvement in the quality of your shave. Once you get used to the shaving brush very few guys return to their previous routine.

**SHAVE AFTER A SHOWER**

This gives your beard time to soften up and results in a more comfortable shave. If you're up early every day get into the routine to shave the night before. This way you are not rushed to get your boots on and get out the door so you can slow it down a little. This is especially popular with enlisted guys and early starters.

**TWO PASS SHAVE**

Do your first pass with the direction of growth, then re-lather from your shaving brush (it should still have enough lather on it) and this time shave across the direction of growth. Some guys then go against the growth for the baby bum smooth shave. This can lead to razor burn and in-grown hairs so be careful here; you know what works best for your face. You will get to know how your beard grows, try to make smooth strokes with your razor, don't just hack away at your face, and rinse the blade regularly.

**BABY BUM SMOOTH**

Shaving is about removing your beard with the least amount of discomfort. Not everyone can have a baby bum smooth shave every day. If you are getting razor

burn, don't shave so close, cut out the against/across the growth pass or pay more attention to lathering and your pre-shave. It's when you are getting really close shaves that an aftershave balm is very effective.

**UPGRADE TO A SAFETY RAZOR**

Safety Razors (also known as Double Edge or DE's) give you a better shave than the disposables. You can find a combination of razor and blade that works best for you. Each type of razor has different characteristics just as each blade does also, it's only a slight change of technique (less pressure, let the weight of the razor do the cutting and change the blade angles for going with the growth or against). There is no 'best' razor, only different ones – remember what's good for you might not be best for the next guy.

**TRY A CUT-THROAT**

Here's a little secret – it's not hard! Sure there is a learning curve, but you can ease into it. Start by shaving your side burns, then your cheeks. If you need to look presentable finish up with your DE! This builds confidence. Move onto your neck next. The trickiest bit is your chin so if you want to go cut-throat only grow a goatee for a while. There are a few ways to keep it sharp yourself but if you need to you can always send it out to get re-sharpened on a hone. Please don't try it on the hone you use for your pocket knife!

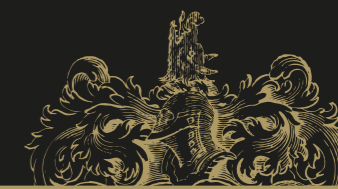
**TEACH YOUR SON**

This is really important; when it's time, pass on this knowledge to your son. He will thank you for it later on. If he's grown up, get him a shaving kit and share some of your tips with him.

Shaving is something we do every day so you might as well enjoy it. Shaving is not a hassle or a chore it's a skill you can work on and perfect. Take your time, try a few different products see what works best.

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[www.shave-shack.com.au](http://www.shave-shack.com.au)



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