

Brush Up on Your Shaving

Invest in a quality brush for a quality shave By Bruce Schultz



MOST NON-BEARDED MEN begin their day in pursuit of the perfect shave – an effortless shave that is close, comfortable and without skin irritation.

There is a movement underway in the daily shaving regimen; a movement back to using higher quality brushes, razors and shaving cream. That's why it's crucial to review why the perfect shave begins with using a shaving brush to apply the shaving cream versus using the most common method, your hands. And it helps to know what to look for in selecting a quality shaving brush that fits your needs and budget.

To review the basics, always shave after a hot shower, not before, and use hot water when lathering during the shave, as hot water softens the beard, opens the pores and cleanses the skin. Your whiskers are tougher than the edge of your razor blade so you need to use plenty of hot water and preferably a pre-shave oil to soften and lubricate the whiskers so the blade glides gently across your face and cleanly cuts the whiskers without irritation.

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The shaving brush is essential to achieving the perfect shave, as it facilitates a cleaner, closer shave than can be achieved when applying shaving cream with your hands. First, the brush stands your whiskers up during the application of the shaving cream, allowing your razor to make a clean cut close to the root of the whisker. Applying shaving cream with your hand flattens the whiskers, making it difficult for the razor to make a clean cut and increasing the likelihood of irritation.

Secondly, the brush exfoliates your skin and removes dead skin from around your whiskers, again allowing the razor to get a close cut while also giving your skin a healthier look and feel.

If you decide to take your shave to the next level and add a shaving brush to your daily pursuit of the perfect shave, the next question is what type of shaving brush should you use?

I strongly recommend selecting a badger hair brush, which will be softer, denser and have greater durability (lesser quality brushes often use boar's hair). When shopping for a badger hair brush there are generally three quality levels of badger hair:

- **Pure Badger** – these are machine-made shaving brushes with medium density, soft, dark gray badger hair. These brushes start at around \$50.
- **Fine Badger** – these are handmade shaving brushes with high density, very soft, light gray badger hair. These brushes start at around \$110.
- **Silver Tip Badger** – these are handmade shaving brushes with very high density, ultra soft, badger hair taken from the neck and chest of the badger. Silver Tip Badger brushes start at around \$180.

The different quality level of badger hair can be combined with an array of handle options, ranging from functional to a silver family heirloom, allowing you to select the combination that is right for you.

Just as a quality driver is necessary to get you started on achieving a great golf score, so quality shaving brush is necessary to get you started on achieving the perfect shave.



Bruce Schultz is the CEO and Co-Founder of The Boardroom Salon for Men. Four locations are sprinkled throughout the Metroplex – Allen, Dallas' Inwood Village, Highland Village and Southlake. For more information or to find the nearest Boardroom Salon for Men, visit www.theboardroomsalon.com