

# Hair removers

## NEED TO KNOW

Are you prepared to suffer for beauty? Our 96 female triallists were. And your answer will reveal whether a ladyshaver or epilator will suit you better. Shaving is quick and relatively painless, whereas epilating is more painful but gives smoother and longer-lasting results.

Both methods are harder and more painful to use on underarms and bikini lines.

### EPILATORS

These have revolving discs that trap hairs like tweezers do and pull them out at the root. It takes weeks for that plucked hair to regrow, but because other hairs are just beneath the skin, they'll appear after five or so days.

Most of our testers were unperturbed by the pain of epilating their legs. But, to ease the pain, it's best to epilate regularly – that way you pull out fewer hairs each time. And the more times you epilate, the easier it gets – eventually some hairs don't grow back at all.

Epilating underarms or the bikini line is too painful for some so several fancier epilators have shaver heads for these areas.

### LADYSHAVERS

Like a traditional wet razor, a ladyshaver cuts through the hair. Growth continues as normal so you'll notice stubble in a couple of days. Rechargeable ladyshavers can often be used in the shower so they're easy to add to your daily routine. Many of the testers don't think ladyshavers give as close a shave as a wet razor.



### PAIN REDUCTION

There are three methods of making epilating hurt less. The vibrating massager on this Philips (1) overwhelms the sensation of pain.

The Philips (2) and Braun (4) include cool packs, which you pop in the freezer to keep cold. The Philips (3) and Braun (4) have options to remove fewer hairs in one go. All the methods reduce pain.



### BEST BUYS

Most of the ladyshavers and epilators in our test remove leg hair effectively, but the Best Buys are all very easy to use, usually because the handle is comfortable to hold and use at different angles. Features that help you clean it, store it or tackle hair all over your body are important too.

### EPILATORS

Best of all is the **Philips (1)**, £50 from Index. Everyone who tried it would use it again. It's rechargeable, so you don't need to be near a socket – ideal for bathroom use.

It was excellent at removing hair and has a rubber massage

attachment which vibrates vigorously, so you're less aware of the plucking. It has a shaver head – useful if you prefer to shave underarms or bikini line. There's also an exfoliating mesh body puff to combat ingrowing hairs.

The Philips HP6461, £45 at Argos and Index, is the same model with no shaver head.

Another **Philips (2)**, £55 from Argos, has an ice pack to freeze for six hours and then attach to the epilator for a cooling sensation. Some users thought the pack helped with the pain, while others found it cumbersome. It also features a shaver head and exfoliating head to help get rid of dead skin and prevent ingrowing hairs, which was popular with our testers. The similar Philips HP6473, £50 from Argos, does not have the extra heads.

The **Philips (3)**, £40 from Argos and Index, is a fast, low-pain epilator. It has a clip-on

precision cap to expose fewer epilating discs. This takes longer to remove hair but fewer are plucked at once, so the pain is more bearable. Some testers said it eased pain on delicate areas.

### LADYSHAVERS

The **Braun (7)**, £40 at Argos, is a chunky rechargeable shaver that gave the smoothest results. The trimmer moves up and down over contours but can be locked to carve a precise line. There's also a comb attachment to trim an unruly bikini line. It has a plastic holder to hang it up in the bathroom.

The **Philips (8)**, £30 from Boots, Argos and Index, is a simple rechargeable model. The whole head moves up to help you tackle hard-to-reach areas or longer hairs. Unusually, it has no bag, but it has a funky disc to dock it on while charging and a thin rubber strap to hang it in the shower.

## On the bikini line

**BEST BUY**

### 8 Philips LADYSHAVER

#### CLEANING

All the shaver heads, like the one on this Braun (7), and all the epilator heads except the Emjoi (6) can be removed for cleaning. All shavers except the Philips Moi (9) have a small brush to flick off hair. Run wet-and-dry shaver heads under the tap to clean.

#### KEY

★ ☆ ○ ● ●  
Best Worst  
Best Buy

#### TRIMMERS

**Pros** Unlikely to cause irritation and the only method that lets you shorten rather than remove the hair.

**Cons** Can be difficult to get a close finish.

**Best Buy** Scoring 71%, the **Remington Bikini Trim and Shape BTK 3000**, £20 from Argos, Boots, Currys and Index, is a rechargeable trimmer that you can use in the shower. The trimmer comb is removable so you can trim to bare or use the built-in length selectors, from one-eighth to half an inch. We tested the now discontinued BTK 2000; the only difference is the addition of a shaver head.

#### Also tested

● Scherna Woman Bikini Mate, £20 (66%)

● Vidal Sassoon Femme Fatale, £25 (65%)

● Philips Bikini Trimmer HP6360, £20 (57%)

● Wahl LadyGroom Bikini Trimmer 9807, £11 (54%)

#### WAXES

**Pros** Hair removal lasts longest.

**Cons** Painful, as hair is pulled out by the roots. Can cause irritation and ingrowing hairs.

Neither of the kits we tried is as good as a depilatory cream.

● Wax A Way Bikini Line Wax, £4 (64%)

● Boots Bikini Waxing Kit, £4 (60%)

#### DEPILATORY CREAMS

**Pros** Easy to use. Lasts longer than shaving.

**Cons** Cream is messy and often leaves a few hairs or

**Veet Hair Removal Bikini Kit (left); Remington Bikini Trim and Shape**

stubble. Can cause irritation.

**Best Buy** Scoring 82%, the **Veet Hair Removal Bikini Kit**, £6 from Boots, has a curvy spatula that makes it easy to apply and remove. Testers also liked the aftercare cream.

#### Also tested

● Nair Bikini Sachet, £2.45 (74%)

● Superdrug Bikini Hair Remover Sachet, £1.89 (66%)

● Boots Bikini Brief Hair Removing Cream, £1.99 (63%)

#### SCORE

For waxes and depilatory creams, this ignores price and is based on:

Performance	40%
Ease of use	40%
Smell	10%
Aftercare product	5%
Use again	5%

#### SCORE

For epilators, ladyshavers and bikini trimmers, this ignores price and is based on:

Ease of use	45%
Performance	40%
Features	10%
Use again	5%

#### TABLE NOTES

We tested the latest models from the biggest-selling brands.

#### Specification

**Price** Typical high-street price.

**Recharges** A ✓ indicates built-in rechargeable battery; others use normal batteries or mains power.

#### User ratings

**Low pain** Used on the legs. Pain will be more severe in other areas.  
**Ease of use** How easy it was to set up, hold, use on legs and clean.  
**Features** Such as versatile hair removal, cleaning and storage.  
**Use again** Whether the testers would use each device again.

## Hair removers

### EPILATORS

	Price (£)	Recharges	Wet use	Hair removal	Smoothness	Low pain	Ease of use	Features	Use again	Score (%)
1 Philips Satinelle Massage HP6463	50	✓		★	☆	☆	★	★	★	85
2 Philips Satin Ice Optima HP6475	55	mains		☆	☆	☆	☆	★	○	76
3 Philips Satinelle HP6408	40	mains		☆	☆	★	★	☆	☆	74
4 Braun Silk-epil Soft Perfection 3270	50	mains		☆	☆	☆	☆	★	●	70
5 Epilady Duo EP001	20	mains		○	☆	☆	☆	☆	○	67
6 Emjoi Epi Travel	15	battery		○	○	☆	★	●	●	58

### LADYSHAVERS

7 Braun Silk and Soft Bodyshave LS 5500	40	✓	✓	☆	☆	☆	★	★	☆	77
8 Philips Ladyshave HP6319	30	✓	✓	☆	☆	★	★	●	☆	71
9 Philips Moi HP6350	30	✓	✓	☆	☆	☆	★	○	●	68
10 Philips Ladyshave Soft Select HP6328	35	✓	✓	☆	○	★	☆	○	○	66
11 Boots 2436760 Soft & Smooth Ladyshaver	28	✓		☆	○	☆	☆	●	●	64
12 Remington Smooth & Silky Ultra WDF 3500	30	✓	✓	☆	○	☆	☆	●	●	64
13 Remington Smooth & Shape Body Kit WPG150	25	✓	✓	●	●	★	☆	★	●	54
14 Scherna Top to Toe 8650U	35	✓	✓	○	○	○	○	★	●	53