

The Health Hazards of Bikini Waxing

Let's get real—there's one reason and one reason only why women endure Brazilian bikini waxes: sex. You know if you're not seeing anyone "special" you're not forking over \$50 for a medieval genital torture treatment. But as if the pain, the price tag, and the full frontal nudity in front of a complete stranger weren't enough to worry about, there's also a little-known [health hazard](#) to waxing: the double dip.

Those infamous wooden spatulas are disposable for good reason. Once they're dipped into the wax and the wax is spread onto your skin, they should be tossed, and a new spatula should be used for each subsequent dip. Why? Because once the spatula touches skin, dipping it back into the wax can potentially pass bacteria along with it. Now I don't know about you, but I don't want to come in contact with *anything* that's touched a stranger's punany. That's just me.

So in the spirit of research, I decided to head to [Shobha](#), a hair-removal salon known for its extra sanitary services. I was prepared for the worst as my skirt hit the floor and I hopped onto the table, reminded why I switched back to shaving in the first place. But there wouldn't be much time for reflection, as Jamuna got right down to business. She donned a pair of pink plastic gloves and I was instructed to assume [positions only my boyfriend usually sees me in](#). "I'm a big baby," I sputtered out as she came toward me with the spatula. "Very sensitive. Reeeeeeeal sensitive."

You see, I'm very into pain management—I'm a hedonist, not a masochist. Not easily embarrassed...but very easily bruised. So doing [naked yoga](#) on a 2 by 5 table doesn't bother me one bit. Hot wax on my vagina does. So I closed my eyes and began Lamaze breathing, and waited for the pain.

But then...surprise! *Far* less ouch than I remembered. But before I could celebrate, I peeled open my eyes for a moment to spy and see if the spatula made it's way back into the wax. It didn't. 10 minutes later I was out the door with barely any irritation. After all, boyfriends provide plenty of that.