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SHOBHA SUGARING KIT, \$30. myshobha.com. This was "the most spa-like" of all the products Ms. DeBoom tried, and her "favorite," even though it took some planning. First, the sugar had to be heated in a microwave. "Since I don't have a microwave in my bathroom," she said, "I had to prep in the kitchen and then bring the kit to my 'home spa,' a k a the bathroom." Sugaring is similar to waxing: the heated sugar, which is the consistency of honey, is spread over the skin, in this case on Ms. DeBoom's bikini area. "Then I applied a strip of fabric, held my skin taut and YANK!" she said, adding, "The first rip is shocking, but it gets easier." She found the kit "luxurious" because it included a pre-sugaring talc, a post-sugaring relief cream and a spray sanitizer. The best part, she said, was that "my bikini line remained ingrown-free and smooth for almost three weeks," while the other side, which she shaved "as a control," saw the hair return within a week.

Photo: Kevin Moloney for The New York Times