

01

waxing

THE DANGER Double dipping during waxing can contaminate the wax, potentially leading to infections.

THE DETAILS "We all have a certain level of bacteria on the skin, which is usually harmless," explains New York hair-removal expert Shobha Tummala. "However, there are types of bacteria (like staph) that can be dangerous if you have a weak immune system. So, if your waxer double dips, you run the risk of contracting a potential infection from the contaminated wax."

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF Your aesthetician should use a clean applicator each time she dips into the wax. "Double dipping during waxing, which is quite common, is scarier than double dipping your chips at a party," says Tummala. "The same spatula is used during the treatment, redipping the applicator back into the wax, which is then used on others. Heated wax makes for the perfect breeding ground for bacteria and germs." Waxing tools should be taken out of a sterilized pouch and sanitized before being used again. Always make sure a new roll of paper is put on the table before you lay down. And, whoever is doing your wax should wear gloves so there's no cross-contamination.

DID YOU KNOW?

Double dipping wax is illegal in several states, although it's not always enforced. "Many aestheticians are even trained to double dip out of convenience," says Tummala.