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PERFECT EYEBROWS



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Well-groomed eyebrows are a beauty must. You should embrace your natural brow shapes, because no matter how much you tweeze, you cannot turn them into something they are not. Some naturally curve in a gentle arch; others grow straight across. Here is a simple way to find the best shapes for your brows.

Before we begin, gather your tools. You will need tweezers, a brow brush, a small pair of scissors, and a white eye pencil.

Now let's evaluate your brows. First, are they too dense? Eyebrows that are too dense can be softened either by trimming them or lightening the color. To trim, simply brush them up and snip any stray hairs that extend past the upper brow line. Next, brush them down and snip any unruly hairs that extend past the lower brow line.

Often, brow hairs are actually longer than they appear because the tips of the hairs are light in color, and when they reach a certain length they tend to curl. By trimming them, you eliminate some of the density and that slight curl so the hairs lie down more neatly.

If you need to trim your brows, it should be done before you start to tweeze. Otherwise you might ruin your brow line by tweezing away hairs that should have stayed but were simply too long.

Are your brows too pale or speckled with gray? If so, you might choose to have them tinted. Tinting will help define them and alleviate the need for eyebrow makeup.

Now it's tweezing time. The best time to tweeze your brows is after a steamy shower. It's a lot less painful because your pores are open. Try to tweeze in natural light. You can see what you're doing much better. After plucking a couple of hairs from one brow, move to the other, then back and forth a few hairs at a time to preserve symmetry. Always

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tweeze in the same direction as the hair grows, or it might not grow back properly.

A great trick when preparing to tweeze is to use a white eye pencil to sketch a pattern outline (a template of sorts) of the shape you want your brow to be. This is an excellent way to get a preview of the end result before you actually do the tweezing. It's then a simple matter to remove only the hairs that are covered in white.

How do you determine where to start? Here's how to make the perfect eyebrow take shape. Locate the three pivotal points along your brow line by following this quick exercise:

POINT A. Hold a pencil or the handle of a brush vertically against the side of your nose, noting where it meets the brow. That is where your brow should begin.

POINT B. Hold the pencil against your nostril and move it diagonally across the outer half of the iris of your eye. Note where the pencil meets the brow. This is the best place for the peak of your arch. If you tweeze from Point A to Point B, tapering the line slightly thinner toward the peak, you will create the ideal shape for your brow.

POINT C. Again, place the pencil against your nostril and extend it diagonally to the outer corner of your eye. Where it meets the brow is the best place for your brow to end. If you tweeze from Point B to Point C, tapering the line even thinner, you will create the ideal brow shape for your face.



Text and images excerpted from Makeup Makeovers by Robert Jones (\$21.95) Fair Winds Press copyright 2005. Available at booksellers nationwide.

Take care not to overdo it because sparse brows, especially on a mature face, make the face look older. You can wax unwanted hairs, but be aware that the hairs may not grow back correctly because wax is pulled off in the opposite direction of the hairs' growth. Also, a warning: Waxing repeatedly may eventually give the skin a crepe-like appearance.

