

SHAVE VALET

YXE WET SHAVING SUPPLIES



PREPARATION: Don't underestimate the importance of this step which is often the most overlooked step. **SKIN:** Properly hydrate your skin prior to shaving. Ideally you want to shave right after a shower when your skin is hydrated and your hair is softened. If you can't shower, place a hot towel on your face for a few minutes. **BRUSH/RAZOR:** Soak your shave brush and Safety Razor in your sink filled with warm or hot water.



LATHER: This is the protective aspect of the shave, you must build your lather and apply it to your skin. Applying the lather with a shave brush also helps exfoliate and lift the hair follicles which lead to a better shave. It will take a bit of practice to achieve the perfect lather and there are a few ways to do this, depending on your preference you may choose to use the following methods. **LOADING THE BRUSH:** For a Hard Soap or Italian Soap, load your shaving brush by swirling it over the soap in the container, using a circular motion for about 30-40 seconds. Don't be afraid to use a little pressure. For a Cream, scoop out an almond sized amount and press it into the middle of the soaked shave brush. **SURFACE LATHER:** First gently shake your shave brush to remove excess water. Ensure your skin is damp and build the lather on your skin using a circular motion. **BOWL OR SCUTTLE:** Load your brush, as mentioned above, or press an almond sized amount of soap into the bottom of your bowl and build your lather in a shave mug, bowl or scuttle. A good shave lather is thick, almost like whipped cream. If your lather is bubbly like body wash, I would recommend you don't use it or use it with caution, as it may not have the required cushion to protect your skin from the blade.



SHAVE: There are many techniques when it comes to the actual shave and with trial and error you will soon develop your own process and what works best for you. I recommend growing your hair out for a few days before your first shave. This way you can visually see and feel your growth patterns to plan your approach. Hold your razor tightly, you can wet your hand and apply some Alum to your hand to help grip your razor. Hold your razor at about a 30 degree angle and take small, gentle, slow strokes that slightly overlap at about a 1/2" per second stroke pace. Do not use any pressure, let the weight of the safety razor do the work for you and remember you are simply there to guide your razor. When shaving your face, go with the grain for your first few shaves to get used to the feel, tools and technique. As you experiment, you can play around with different techniques such as shaving with the grain (WTG) or across the grain (ATG) or some combination of both. Don't be afraid to use your other hand to pull your skin taut or move your nose out of the way. You can also contort your face or compress air in your mouth. Never shave an area that does not have lather on it. For a closer smoother shave, you may want to re-lather and complete 2-3 extra passes. Leg shavers can typically shave against the grain and usually can get away with 1 pass and a bit of touch ups.



RINSE: Once you are done, remove any excess lather off of your skin with a warm wash cloth and thoroughly rinse your skin.



STERILIZE: It's always good to sterilize and close your pores after a shave with a product like Potassium Alum, which is a natural antiseptic or astringent. Wet your skin with cold water, wet the Alum and rub your Alum on your skin, wait 15-30 seconds and wash it off. You will feel some stinging, which means it's working. You can also use an aftershave balm or liquid aftershave to disinfect and tone your skin.



HYDRATE: If you have used Alum, you can rehydrate your skin by applying a moisturizer, post shave balm or aftershave balm. Some artisan shave soaps or creams can be quite hydrating enough on their own, so feel free to skip this step if you feel hydrated enough.



CLEAN: Taking good care of your gear will ensure you get many happy years with it. **BRUSH:** It's always a good idea to dry your shave brush by swirling it on a clean dry towel and then place it in a brush stand hanging upside down. This will prevent excess water from sitting within your knot, which can cause your handle or knot to prematurely breakdown. **RAZOR:** Remove the razor blade, rinse and dry your safety razor. You can leave your razor blade in your safety razor for the next shave, but ensure you loosen the cap a bit to ensure there is good airflow around the blade. For the ultimate cleaning technique, remove the blade and clean with soap and a soft bristle tooth brush. **BLADE:** If you want to remove your blade between shaves, carefully pat dry your razor blade on a towel and put somewhere safe for the next day's use. If you are done with it, place it in a sharps container or blade bank. Never toss exposed razor blades in the garbage or recycle bin. **SOAP:** Let your soap air dry without the lid to prevent mold or mildew. Store everything in a safe place with good airflow.