

sex talk.

answers to your questions about sex and relationships

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Q I always feel so self-conscious about my pubic hair because I never know how much hair I should have down there. What do most people prefer in terms of pubic hair?

A. According to a recent online survey of 146 participants, the answer is different for men and women. Through this convenience sample, we found that 64% of people who are intimate with female-identified people prefer her to have *no* hair. The survey also found 66% of people who are intimate with a male-identified people prefer him to have *trimmed* hair.

Humans have long been altering their pubic hair. Ancient Egyptian art shows women with only small triangles of pubic hair and some were buried with little bronze razors for the afterlife. Even Michelangelo gave David limited pubic hair! In the last 30 years there has been a trend toward hairless genitals. This is likely due to the influence of the adult entertainment industry. In the 1960's, if pubic hair was showing it was considered pornographic. That mindset led to the phenomenon of bare genitals being considered erotic. The increase in internet

pornography where it is a “norm” for women to be bare, has contributed to the majority of younger women believing that hairless is the “norm.”

Even without being sexually active, women have to deal with situations such as the type of bathing suits and undergarments that they wear. Men don't have this same concern due to their undergarments typically being less revealing.

There really is no right or wrong answer to this question because it comes down to personal preference. Make sure you are doing what feels right for you and remember that any alteration you make to your hair (anywhere on your body) is not permanent. So go ahead, test out different styles and ask your partner what they prefer so you can make a compromise to make you both happy!

*Guest Columnist: Andrea Hudes,
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Have a question? Send it to sextalk@email.arizona.edu

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