# **[It’s time to stop shaving down there](http://nypost.com/2016/12/06/its-time-to-stop-shaving-down-there/)**

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[Modal Trigger](http://nypost.com/2016/12/06/its-time-to-stop-shaving-down-there/)It’s time to stop shaving down there

Get rid of your pubic hair at your own risk, a new study warns.

People who prefer to go bare increase their chances of catching a sexually transmitted infection by 440 percent, [University of California San Francisco researchers found](http://sti.bmj.com/content/early/2016/10/31/sextrans-2016-052687.short?g=w_sti_ahead_tab).

Cleanly shaven folk have increased skin irritations, more sex, and share their shaving tools more often than their hirsute peers — three possible reasons for the increased risk, the researchers said.

“Grooming may cause epidermal micro-tears, which may increase the risk of STIs,” lead researcher Dr. Benjamin Breyer said, [the Telegraph reported](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2016/12/05/waxing-warning-extreme-grooming-pubic-hair-quadruples-risk-sexually/). “Another possible explanation for our findings, individuals who groom may be more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviors than those who do not groom.”

The researchers analyzed the grooming habits of 7,500 Americans between the ages of 18 and 65 and found that a majority of the study’s participants — about 75 percent — regularly primped their privates.

Women were most likely to use a razor, and men favored electric buzzers, the researchers found.

The hair-raising findings were published Monday in the journal Sexually Transmitted Infections.