



CALYPSO SHAVE SYSTEM

Discover the first shave system developed expressly for men of color! Heavy weight. Steel & Pewter. Open Comb. Guaranteed for life!!!

Black men needed an affordable razor that was engineered from the ground up to suit their unique shaving requirements. They are plagued by ingrown hairs, razor bumps, and razor burn.

CALYPSO answers the call with a very gentle open comb head, a heavyweight handle, and precision design.



PRODUCT COMPARISON

	CALYPSO Global Shave	Bevel Shave System	Merkur 15C	Parker 24C
Razor Type	3-Piece Gentle Open Comb	3-Piece	3-Piece Open Comb.	3 piece Open Comb
Country of Manufacture .	Pakistan	China	China	India.
Construction	Solid steel / Pewter	Brass/Zinc	Steel	100% Solid Brass
Coatings	Powder Coat.	Chrome	Chrome	Chrome
Weight	3.6 ounces	3.2 ounces	2.5 ounces	3.4 ounces
Handle Length	3.25 inches	3.75 inches	4 inches	4.4 inches
Designed for Black Men?	Absolutely.	Absolutely.	No	No.
MSRP	\$29.99 USD	\$49.99 USD	\$39.95 USD	\$39.99 USD
Warranty	Lifetime	Lifetime	1 Year	None



The CALYPSO Story:

CALYPSO is uniquely designed for men of color! The incredibly gentle open comb design, extra stiff pewter head, and overall weight, makes CALYPSO ideally suited for the important task for which it was developed.



CALYPSO Is Exactly What Black men have waited for!

CALYPSO fights the war on ingrown hairs and wins!

Ingrown hairs are caused by a curved hair follicle, which produces tightly curled hair—causing the hair to reenter the skin once the hair is cut and starts to grow back.

Ingrown hairs are treated by the skin just like foreign organisms causing the skin to erupt into painful blister-like wounds.

CALYPSO is a unique product. It is designed to cut curly, dense hair, directly at the skin's surface thereby preventing the hair from curling back where it grows.

The result?

A smooth, close, and efficient shave that has the problem of razor bumps, ingrown hairs, and razor burn solved once and for all!

Brilliantly crafted and very affordable, CALYPSO offers a unique value proposition and is much less expensive than its rivals. The razor is handmade and hand assembled for superior quality control.

New - Shaving for a Cause:



GCSI makes a donation from the sale of each razor to Starlight Children's Foundation.



by **Frederick Lowe**

Gregory Cooper, a slender 26 year old, sometimes wears a scraggly beard that detracts from his good looks because he can't shave every day.

When he does shave with a blade, his face becomes inflamed with razor bumps caused by his naturally curly hair becoming imbedded in his face.

"Eight hours after shaving with a razor blade, my face breaks out in whiteheads," he says.

Whiteheads are a form of acne filled with sebum and discarded skin cells that are capped and white in appearance.



Gregory Cooper's barber shaves his beard with hair clippers so Cooper can avoid razor bumps.

Twice, his razor bumps became so severe he was taken to a hospital emergency room because his lips had become infected and swollen.

"I let my beard grow out rather than messing up my face," Cooper explains. Instead of shaving himself, he lets his barber do the job with hair clippers, not with a blade or razor.

His barber trims his Mohawk-style haircut with clippers and uses the same instrument to trim Cooper's beard every two weeks.

Cooper's dislike of shaving is common among black men who dread razor bumps.

"I never let a razor touch my face," said Kelvin Johnson, who is 24 and grows a beard until he visits a barber who shaves his beard with hair clippers. "Clippers don't break me out."

“Razor bumps can discolor, as well as disfigure, black men's faces, affecting their self image.”



Like Cooper, Johnson also does not like to shave with a blade or a razors.

“I started shaving when I was 16, and razor bumps broke out on my neck,” he said, raising his chin so they could be seen.



Richard Lewis sometimes shaves with a blade or razor, following elaborate preparations.

Not everyone relies on barbers and their clippers. Richard Lewis, a 49 year-old Chicago hairstylist, said clippers don't provide a tight enough shave.

“It's not baby smooth,” said Lewis, who wears a short, neat beard but uses a blade and sometimes a straight razor to shave after making elaborate preparations to ready his beard for shaving. Lewis points out that black men must shave following their hair's growth pattern.

Shaving in Black and White

Television commercials portray the manly art of shaving as a refreshing and simple morning exercise that dispatches hair stubble with a few strokes of a razor before the man splashes on Aqua Velva after shave. The man's wife then draws the palm of her hand across his smooth face, exclaiming over its softness. But for most black men this never happens.



Razor Bumps

Razor or blade shaving works for white men and other men who have straight hair. But for black men with curly hair, shaving with a razor or a blade is an ordeal that can lead to the face being disfigured by razor bumps and skin discoloration, both of which can affect black men's appearance, self-image and self-esteem.

"Historically, razor bumps remain a significant problem for black men. Certainly, most black men have razor bumps, but not all," explained Dr. Charles E. Crutchfield, III, owner of Crutchfield Dermatology, an Eagan, Minn.-based practice that treats African-American men for razor bumps. Dr. Crutchfield is also a clinical professor of dermatology at the University of Minnesota Medical School.



Dr. Charles E. Crutchfield, a dermatologist, treats black men with razor bumps.

The Journal of the National Medical Association published a study by a black physicians group in 1974 titled, *Pseudofolliculitis barbae* in the Military. *Pseudofolliculitis barbae*, first described in 1956, is the medical term for razor bumps.

Razor bumps are more common and more severe among African-American men, reported the journal article, which was written by Major Alvin M. Alexander, M.D., chief of



Dermatology Service at the U.S. Army Medical Center in Okinawa, Japan, and Walter I. Delph, M.D., a physician at Montefiore Hospital in New York City.

There are two causes of razor bumps, explained Dr. Crutchfield. “One is called extrafollicular penetration and other is called transfollicular penetration. Because black men tend to have curly hair, the hair curls back into the skin after shaving, causing inflammation. The inflammation can look like pimples. The hair follicles can also become infected.”

Razor bumps can be physically disfiguring, and they can affect black men’s psychological well-being, Dr. Crutchfield said.

Dr. Crutchfield said he sees patients on a regular basis with razor bumps.

“Their skin is irritated, painful, inflamed and discolored,” he explains. “All of these things together can cause frustration and lower self-esteem.”

Johnson, who lives in Evanston, Ill., adds that many black men are so self-conscious about their razor bumps they don’t apply for jobs because they are concerned about how they will be perceived.

Categories of Razor Bumps



In its study, The Journal of the National Medical Association graded the seriousness of pseudofolliculitis barbae on a four-point scale for the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Marines.

A Grade 0 showed no evidence of razor bumps.

Grade I is designated when ingrown hairs and less than

20 percent papules or solid elevation of the skin are in evidence in a two-millimeter area, which is equivalent to a small dot on a penny. In these cases, the physicians recommended a treatment of vitamin-A acid, which is used to treat acne, and topical steroids, which are used to treat rashes.



Grade II is diagnosed when ingrown hairs and 20 percent or more papules cover an area of two-millimeters or greater diameter on facial skin. The authors recommended that individuals with this condition stop shaving and use vitamin A-acid and topical steroids.

Grade III is characterized by multiple pustules and this is considered a severe condition. The person should stop shaving.

Grade IV is also considered a severe condition, and men are encouraged to stop shaving and use topical or systemic antibiotics. In addition, the physicians recommended opening and draining the razor bumps.

The National Medical Association published its study 39 years ago and some of the recommended treatments may no longer be accepted.

Urging black men who suffer from razor bumps to stop shaving, however, remains an effective way of combating razor bumps.

“I see patients on a regular basis with razor bumps. Some professions request that I write a letter so police officers, firefighters and military personnel can grow a beard to avoid razor bumps,” Dr. Crutchfield says.

In 2004, the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., recognized that razor bumps were a major problem among its black-male midshipmen. The academy instituted a policy of permitting the midshipmen to stop shaving for specific period of time of not more than 30 days. After a month, they were required to see a dermatologist. The Naval Academy, however, requires midshipmen to keep their beards and moustaches clean and neatly trimmed.

What If You Don't Want A Beard?

But what if a black man doesn't want a beard or doesn't think he looks good wearing a beard?

There are products like Magic Shave, a depilatory or razorless shaving hair removal cream for black men that prevents razor bumps. Magic Shave is made by Soft Sheen-Carson Inc., a Chicago-based company. It is however quite toxic.

Hair can be removed permanently through electrolysis, which can be expensive. In addition, laser hair removal is available, but individuals should use one that is attuned to brown skin, warns Dr. Crutchfield.



Very few electric shavers exist to address the razor bump issue. although the manufacturers are sincere in their effort, electric shavers do not shave closely enough to address the issue completely.

“The real key to eliminating razor bumps is getting rid of the hair. Once the hair is gone, there will be no more razor bumps,” he says.

(Note the above excerpt is copyright Crutchfield Dermatology)

THE CALYPSO APPROACH

Calypso has been engineered to cut the hair right at the skin's surface. Its open comb head acts as a rake able to gently separate the hairs as they are cut. The result is a smooth, comfortable, gentle and efficient shave that combats ingrown hairs, razor bumps and shaving irritation efficiently and effectively once and for all!

