

Hair today, gone tomorrow

Aine Fitzgerald

LIMERICK ladies - and gents, if they so wish - can finally wave goodbye to the 'ouch factor' associated with waxing thanks to a new treatment which is now available in Limerick.

For the past month, Claire Corcoran has been ridding Limerick women, and in some cases men, of their unwanted hair at her Wax Works salon on O'Connell Street.

"I worked in Dublin for the last five years in a salon called Brazilia. A couple of people started coming up to Dublin from Limerick to get waxed. They were chatting saying, 'God there is nowhere in Limerick that does good waxing'. I decided it was time to bring Lycon into Limerick," the Nenagh native explains.

Not prepared to settle for a place "where a bed would be shoved up against a wall" - Claire was determined to make the client's visit a comfortable experience. The ceilings are high, the music is soft, and the client's privacy is of paramount importance.

"The product that is used, Lycon, is probably the reason why we are really different - it is an Australian based product," Claire explains.

On the table beside her are three colourful pots.

"As you can see from the pots - there are three different waxes and there are pre and post after-care oils."

In a change from the traditional waxing experience, strips aren't used on the skin. Demonstrating how the treatment works, Claire first cleanses the skin and then follows up with an aromatherapy oil which she massage into the skin for a few minutes.

"This is going to act as a film on the skin so it is going to protect the skin from the wax. So when I clean off the wax now it is not going to rip the skin - it is not going to have that raw feeling," she explains.

Mary Heffernan from Castletroy was one of those people who used to travel to Dublin to avail of the treatment. She waxes lyrical about the treatment to the Leader while Claire



Claire Corcoran carrying out a wax treatment on Mary Heffernan, Castletroy

works on her underarm area.

"I have gone to Dublin to have it done. I have found it very good. Before if I was getting the legs done you would hear me roaring, whereas with this there is no pain at all," she says.

Claire opts for a rose wax on Mary's underarm area. "It is going to be quiet soothing," she says as she applies the pink wax to the skin.

The wax is left to set for one or two minutes before it is pulled off like a plaster - but without the pain.

"All the time the oil is on underneath so the wax is not sticking to the skin at all," says Claire.

"That is going to minimise discomfort and redness. It is really good for the face as well. People often want to get their eyebrows done on their lunch but when they go back to the office they are afraid that the girls and guys will know. This only takes about 15 minutes," she adds.

According to Claire a lot of people wouldn't need to get their underarm waxed again for three weeks. "There is two weeks of no growth and then in the third week hair will start to grow back," she explains.

"On the legs you would be looking at two to three weeks of no hair with ladies ready to get their legs done again on about the fourth or fifth week."

The most popular of the wax treatments, Claire says, are the Brazilian and Hollywood, particularly coming into the summer season, with people preparing for the beach. Lycon also has a male only wax, Manifico and the salon offer male Brazilians too.

"Again I am the only salon in Limerick to offer male Brazilians and male chest and back as well," says Claire.

"I do find that men are becoming more metrosexual. It's very popular in Dublin - I don't think it's going to be a big take off but it is something we offer. We get enquiries from people down around Clare and Kerry and Limerick," she says.

Wax Works is located on the first floor of 112 O'Connell Street, (overhead Timberland beside the George Boutique).

For further information email info@waxworks.ie or visit www.waxworks.ie