

GET PLUCKY

Brow Know-How

If your face is a work of art — and chica, you’d better believe it is! — then your eyebrows are the all-important frames. Ana Martinez, eyebrow expert at Bliss Spa in San Francisco, puts it another way. “Eyebrows are often underestimated. They are a very important feature of the face. If the eyes are the windows to the soul then the brows are the frames to those windows.”

When it comes to eyebrows, trends come and go, but the right look for anybody is really an individual affair. Martinez says, “For me, it’s like finding the right handbag. If your brows are too small for your size, they only make your body look bigger. You measure the face individually for each client, so it’s really all about getting the right — relative thickness — perspective.”

Should you get them waxed or tweeze them yourself? Most brows benefit from a little of both. Even if you get them waxed with a professional, you’ll still have to do some plucking for maintenance. If you decide to do it yourself, use the tips below to help guide you. Whatever you decide to do, don’t wait until the last minute! Shape your brows a few weeks before your quinceanera, so if there’s anything that needs correcting, you have time to grow out your brows and make the adjustments before your big day.

Tweezing Tips

To get started:

- Tweezing is best done when the skin is supple, so wait until after you’ve taken a shower, when your skin is soft. - Tweeze in a natural light and/or with a magnifying mirror so you can see every hair.
- Try to avoid tweezing on the day of your quince. Do it the night before, since it can sometimes cause redness or irritation.

Determine the shape:

- Brows should naturally follow the shape of the brow bone. Do not fight brows’ natural shape or direction of hair growth. Your mission is to enhance what nature has already done for you.
- To find the right length, hold a pencil diagonally from the nostril, past the outside corner of the eye to your temple. The end of the brow should fall where the pencil is.

Time to tweeze:

- Brush eyebrows upward.
- With the tweezers (slanted ones are the best), pull one hair at a time with a quick motion in the direction of the hair growth. Tweeze two or three rows of hair. Repeat on each eyebrow.
- Never tweeze hairs at the end of the eyebrow. The longer your brows are, the better!

- Continuously check to see that your work is symmetrical. Tweeze a few hairs from one brow, stop, then tweeze a few from the other so that both eyes are even. And always stop to check that you haven't tweezed too much.

If your brows are naturally light or thin, use a brow pencil to fill them in. If they're unruly, even after plucking, you can use brow gel to set them. And remember, never shave your brows! Plucking may be slightly uncomfortable at first, but if you take the time to do it right, you will be pleased with the results.