HAIRCUTS/SHAVING

Shaving the Five Corners of the Beard

Men are forbidden from shaving the five corners of their beards with a razor blade, but since there are many opinions of what constitutes the five corners, razors may not be used at all when shaving.

NOTE A razor is defined as a blade that can cut without having an opposing surface against which to cut.

Women and Razor Blades

Women may shave any parts of their bodies using razor blades.

When Haircuts and Shaving Are Forbidden

Here are the times when men and women are forbidden to get haircuts and men are forbidden to shave, including their necks (from most severe restrictions to least):

Most Severe Restrictions

- Mourner for parents (no shaving for the first 30 days and no haircut until three months after his or her previous haircut).

  NOTE If mourning for other relatives, you may get a haircut after 30 days.

- From Saturday night before *Tish'a B'Av* until the evening after *Tish'a B'Av*.
- *Chol ha'moed*.

Next Most-Severe Restrictions

Shiv'asar B'Tamuz (17th of *Tamuz*) until the evening after the *Shabbat* preceding *Tish'a B'Av*.

Least-Severe Restrictions

During 33 of the 49 days of counting the *omer* (*sefirat ha'omer*); that is, either from the second day of *Passover* until *Lag Ba'Omer* (33rd day of the *omer*) OR from *Rosh Chodesh Iyar* until the day before *Shavuot*, according to your custom.

NOTE Conditions that may allow leniency are if you might lose your job or otherwise lose a large sum of money.

Rabbis and Beards

It is traditional for *rabbis* to grow beards but it is not required.

Cutting Boys' Hair at Age Three

Cutting boys' hair at three years old is a custom (mainly originated through Chasidim) that some people have and is not a *halacha*.

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