## THE HISTORY OF WAXING

[Caronlab Australia](https://caronlab.com.au/author/admin/) in [Waxing](https://caronlab.com.au/waxing/)

Lilliane Caron takes a journey back in time to when it all began.

The beauty industry is an amazing world to be a part of. It’s forever changing and expanding rapidly. Trends come and go and products that were once revolutionary now seem so mundane, as if there was never a time, we didn’t have these kinds of luxuries at our finger tips.

Hair removal may not be considered the most glamourous aspect of the beauty world, most people prefer to talk about makeup tips, or which fake tan gives you a flawless finish. However, waxing is a multi-million-dollar industry and is the bread and butter of most salons. The ease of waxing today is often taken for granted. Waxing has been around for centuries, and while it is not a revolutionary concept, the products and formulations that are now available are revolutionary, and should be recognised on just how far they have come. The transformation of waxes and other hair removal techniques over the past few decades is amazing and we should all take a minute to thank our lucky stars we have never had to use a sharp rock or pure beeswax straight from the hive to remove unwanted hair!

The Egyptians are known for the being the ‘trendsetters’ for many beauty rituals. The woman of ancient Egypt used to remove all of the hair on their bodies, some including the hair on their heads! While hair removal these days is considered part of any beauty regime, purely for aesthetic reasons, it first originated in Middle Eastern countries in order to reduce parasites, fleas, lice, and body odour which were all very common when living in such hot conditions. It has long been tradition that even the men are completely hairless. With few options, they made waxes out of sugar and beeswax and used tweezers made from seashells (can you believe!?).

[Sugaring](https://caronlab.com.au/product/aquagel-sugaring-starter-kit/) is an early form of waxing and is still popular in Arabic countries today. It uses an all-natural paste or gel made from food-derived ingredients like sugar, water, and lemon juice to remove the hair. The toffee like substance is kneaded into the skin repeatedly, removing the hair as it goes. The thing with sugaring, even to this day, is that it is quite harsh on the client’s body and strenuous on the therapist’s wrists, back and body. While these homemade waxes were derived from natural ingredients, they would actually have been quite harsh on the skin and caused irritation, redness, itchiness, and bumps – reactions that can quiet easily be prevented or treated in this day and age.

During the Roman Empire, the lack of body hair was also considered a sign of wealth and class, but even the wealthiest people in this period could only use what limited resources were available, generally tree sap, razors made from flints and sharp stones to scrap the hair.

In the 1930’s the first commercial waxes were manufactured in France to be sold to the public. As time went by, waxes became more available to the public and quickly became the choice of woman all over the world for removing unwanted hair – It was quick, convenient, and effective! Men at this stage still opted for the razor but woman rejoiced in a method that gave them longer lasting results.

In the last 50 years or so the waxing industry has evolved immensely. Yes, by the 60’s there were both strip and hard waxes on the market; however, the formulas and ingredients used to produce the waxes were inferior to those on the market today. While the idea had been marketed, the waxing industry was far from perfect and had a long way to grow.

From being in the waxing business myself for over 30 years I have witnessed the growth of this industry first hand. In 1979I was working long hours in my own salon and became frustrated with the expensive, inferior, difficult to use waxes on the market. The strip wax crystalized, and the hard wax went brittle on the skin.

Not only were they poor quality, but we had to sift the hair out of the wax and reuse it. Imagine putting your used wax in a fish and chip fryer every night and sifting out the hair because that’s what we were originally doing! I was sick and tired of a system that was desperate for a makeover, so I set about formulating my own range of hard and strip waxes.

In the year 2000, the world’s first white wax was formulated by my company in response to the growing trend in [Brazilian waxing](https://caronlab.com.au/brazilian-waxing-myths-busted/) which was rapidly making a comeback. The Brazilian has been around since the early BC’s, and the trend has come and gone countless times. History tells us that Catherine de Medici, the Queen of France in the mid 1500’s actually banned the removal of all pubic hair! Who would have thought anyone would ban such a thing!? This revolutionary wax gripped to the hair without pulling the skin, it didn’t crack or go brittle and delivered unrivalled results; to this day, it is still Australia’s number one selling XXX wax.

The waxing industry is currently thriving in both a retail and salon environment. The idea of having smooth silky hair free skin is not considered a luxury; it is the norm – particularly for women. It is accessible to everyone in one way or another whether they are paying a professional or doing it in the comfort of their own home.

With convenience in mind for both beauty therapists and at-home users, there are perfectly sized hard wax pallets which mean there’s now no need to smash up hard wax with hammers. There are water soluble, dripless, [microwavable](https://caronlab.com.au/microwave-to-pot/), as well as [powdered waxes](https://caronlab.com.au/product/masqua-beaded-hard-wax-creme-500g/) on the market. There are waxes that contain Titanium Dioxide and other ingredients that decrease redness and irritation, a side effect that had no solution centuries ago. This kind of innovation makes me excited for what the future holds. In 30 years’, time who knows what kind of waxes we will have and what they will be capable of. It’s funny to think how time goes by and all we can do is wait and see where it takes us!