

How to Get a Great Haircut from a Barber When You Have Thinning Hair

This is an extra resource to go along with the original article:

[4 Must-Have Products for Bald Men or Guys With Thinning Hair](#)

Before you started losing your hair, you probably never thought much about going to the barber. But hair loss can make visiting the barber a challenging experience. Follow these tips to make sure you get great haircut.

1. Offer a Comparison

Hairstyles are unique to the individual. Things like head shape, eye distance, the size of one's ears, etc., all play a role in how well a hairstyle works. So you can't pull off just anything, but you can help your barber by pointing to the hairstyle of someone he would know. If he doesn't know the person, show him a photo. Your barber may tell you it's not possible, but that's better than describing it and ending up with a terrible cut.

2. Discuss Sideburn Length

Your sideburns can help frame your face and even out your proportions. That's important if you have a lot of recession or baldness at the front of your head. Most barbers don't ask about sideburns, they just trim them where it looks like they were trimmed in the past. Let him know if you want them a little long.

3. Even Out Your Arches

Mature male hairlines are M-shaped, with the center of the M over the nose. Sometimes, however, when your hairline recedes, one peak of the M could be higher than the other. As long as the difference isn't too great, you could get a cosmetic improvement by equaling them out.

4. Taper From Top to Bottom

Tapering is the practice of gradually shortening hair length from the top of the head to the neck. By keeping it tight around the sides and neck, you can create the illusion of fullness on top. Have him layer the top for some extra volume.

5. Skip the Product

Unless the product is specifically designed to thicken thinning hair, it's best to skip it. Many barbers will run some gel or mousse through your hair after to give it a professional look, but those kinds of products can cling hair together, which makes it look thinner.

6. Be Specific with Length

If you give your barber vague instructions like “A little off the top” or “Give me a quick trim,” there’s a good chance you’ll lose more than you intend. Try to use specific terms, like “Take off only an inch.” If it doesn’t seem short enough, you can always ask for a little more. If you like your barber to use clippers, ask him which guards he uses so you can remind him next time.

7. Trust Your Barber

If you use a men’s barber with lots of experience cutting guys’ hair, sometimes it’s as simple as saying, “Hey mate, I’m getting older and my hair is thinning a bit. Do what you think is best for my situation.” Try to have an open mind to his suggestions.