



## How do you choose

# A GOOD BARBER?

**The barber is well and truly back! Men have decided that the local unisex salon is not good enough any more. No more explaining over and over again how you'd like your hair cut. "A little off the sides" means one thing to one stylist and another thing to another stylist. No more completely different haircuts at each visit. Now we can be in control of our image and enjoy the experience!**

Every man needs a reliable, skilled barber in his life. Having a regular barber will ensure that you get a consistent, sharp haircut with every visit. You can go in for a trim without gambling on whether or not you'll come out looking like you were attacked by a weed whacker.

Good barbers have a memory like an elephant. He'll become familiar with the many contours of your head and the complexities of your hair and will know how to cut and style your hair just the way you like it. You'll be able to walk in and simply ask for "the usual." Plus, your barber can become a good friend, someone you can be comfortable shooting the breeze with and look forward to seeing every few weeks.

But how does a man go about forging this important relationship and finding a good barber? How do you know when a barber is a keeper? To help steer you in the right direction, I went to 'The art of manliness' to find they had talked to some experts.

### Before You Enter the Shop

Ask around. Especially seek out recommendations from men who always seem to have awesome haircuts. Chances are they have a great barber that they'd be more than happy to recommend to you.

Search online. Google up "men's grooming in x-city" or "barbershops in x-town." Also, check out barbershop reviews on sites like citysearch.com and yelp.com.

### When You're at the Shop

Look for confidence. Confident barbers will look you in the eye, smile, and give you a firm manly handshake when you first walk in.

You also want a barber who can confidently tell you what would work best for you depending on your requests and your face shape and structure. Barbers without much experience or confidence in their craft will do exactly what the client says, even if what the client asks for will look like crap. A good barber will have the stones to speak up and offer suggestions to the client to help guide them to something more suited for their face. Of course, if the client insists on his crappy cut, a good barber will do exactly what the client asks.

Check how well groomed the barber is. Chances are if the barber has a crummy haircut and shave, he gives crummy haircuts and shaves. How is his clothing? Pressed and

clean? This kind of attention to detail will likely carry over into the haircuts he gives. A great barber takes his personal appearance seriously because he's in the business of helping men with their personal and professional image.

Take note of the shop's cleanliness. If just looking in a certain shop makes your head itch, turn and walk the other way. In addition to the checking how sanitary the place is, just look for overall organization and order. Again, a barber with an eye for detail will make sure his shop and working area are in tiptop shape. If you notice that a barber has tools all over the place and mounds of hair under the chair, that kind of sloppiness may end up reflected in your hair cut.

Does the barber ask the right questions? If the first question the barber asks you is, "What number do you want on the sides?" run out of the shop immediately. Barbers who rely solely on clipper guards to cut hair tend to be lazy and unskilled. Besides, haircuts done with just clippers tend to be mediocre. I mean, come on. You can give yourself a haircut if you know what number guard to put on the clippers.

A good barber will ask you questions like, "What do you like about your hair?" "What don't you like?" "Do you want to change your style?"

Does the barber ask for feedback during the cut? During the haircut, a good barber will stop and ask you for feedback. They'll let you look in a mirror and ask if your hair is still too long or if your hairline's shape on the back of your neck is to your suiting. By asking for constant feedback during the haircut, a good barber can preempt any haircut disasters. Bad barbers, of course, won't ask you for feed-

back until they swivel you around in the chair to look in the mirror. By then it's too late. You're destined to walk the streets looking like a doofus until your next haircut.

To get an idea of the barber's experience, ask him how long he's been cutting hair and where he's barbered. If he's a relative noob, tread carefully. Unless you're willing to be this man's practice head, find a barber with more experience. Ask the barber how busy he is. Great barbers have lots of clients. If he tells you he's on his feet from open until close and that you need an appointment to see him, you've probably found yourself a quality barber.

After you get an idea about his experience and how in demand he is, ask some questions to get a feel for his personality. After all, you'll possibly be spending 30 minutes with this person at least once a month, maybe more if you go in every two weeks. Part of the appeal of the barbershop tradition is the camaraderie men enjoy there. If your personality clashes with the barber's, it can suck all the joy out of getting a haircut.

Start out slow. Of course once you've gone in and talked to a barber, even if you're feeling like he's not the right guy for the job, it's hard just to get up and walk out. And even if you're thinking that a new barber fits the bill, you won't know for sure until he cuts your hair. The best way to figure out how skilled the barber is without risking a dopey hair cut is to simply ask that he clean up your hair line around your ear and your neck. It's hard to screw up and even if he does, it's not too noticeable. Just from the 10 to 15 minutes you're with him and the quality of the trim, you should be able to get a good idea if the barber is a keeper or not.

# BEST BARBERS ACROSS AUSTRALIA



## SYDNEY



### THE BARBERHOOD

WINTERGARDEN, 1 O'CONNELL ST. SYDNEY  
[WWW.BARBERHOOD.COM.AU](http://WWW.BARBERHOOD.COM.AU)



### STERLING HAIRDRESSING

50 BUCKINGHAM STREET, SURRY HILLS  
PHONE 02 9699 9777



### SPA-Q (QT HOTEL)

49 MARKET STREET, SYDNEY  
[WWW.SPA-Q.COM.AU](http://WWW.SPA-Q.COM.AU)



## MELBOURNE



### KINGS DOMAIN

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SEE WEBSITE  
[WWW.KINGSDOMAIN.COM.AU](http://WWW.KINGSDOMAIN.COM.AU)



### THE BEARDED MAN

203 CHAPEL ST. PRAHRAN  
[WWW.BEARDEDMAN.COM.AU](http://WWW.BEARDEDMAN.COM.AU)



### PICKINGS & PARRY

126 GERTRUDE ST. FITZROY  
[WWW.PICKINGSANDPARRY.COM](http://WWW.PICKINGSANDPARRY.COM)



## BRISBANE



### EMPORIUM BARBER

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SEE WEBSITE  
[WWW.THEEMPORIUMBARBER.COM.AU](http://WWW.THEEMPORIUMBARBER.COM.AU)



### CROWN & CO

368 BRUNSWICK ST, FORTITUDE VALLEY  
[WWW.CROWNANDCO.COM.AU](http://WWW.CROWNANDCO.COM.AU)



### JIMMY ROD'S

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SEE WEBSITE  
[WWW.JIMMYRODS.COM.AU](http://WWW.JIMMYRODS.COM.AU)



## ADELAIDE



### BOYS CLUB BARBERSHOP

1/1-5 SUSSEX ST, GLENELG  
[WWW.BOYSCLUBBARBERSHOP.COM](http://WWW.BOYSCLUBBARBERSHOP.COM)



### LEGENDARY BARBERS

5/68 RESERVOIR RD, MODBURY  
[WWW.LEGENDARYBARBERS.COM.AU](http://WWW.LEGENDARYBARBERS.COM.AU)



### BARBER BOYS

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SEE WEBSITE  
[WWW.BARBERBOYS.NET.AU](http://WWW.BARBERBOYS.NET.AU)



## PERTH



### UNCLE JOE'S BARBERSHOP

74-76 KING STREET, PERTH  
[WWW.UNCLEJOES.COM.AU](http://WWW.UNCLEJOES.COM.AU)



### KENNEDY'S BARBERSHOP

138A SOUTH TERRACE, FREMANTLE  
[WWW.KENNEDYSBARBERSHOP.COM.AU](http://WWW.KENNEDYSBARBERSHOP.COM.AU)



### THE GOVERNORS

VARIOUS LOCATIONS, SEE WEBSITE  
[WWW.THEGOVERNORS.COM.AU](http://WWW.THEGOVERNORS.COM.AU)

Recommended by GQ