



It can be startling and embarrassing to find random hairs popping up in places you wouldn't expect them, like on your chin, nose and toes. Turns out it's quite common, especially as you get older. Here, get the scoop on why it happens.

WHY IT'S HAPPENING



It could be a harmless gene mutation

If you randomly find one long, dark hair on your chin, nose, toes or breasts, it may be that a single hair follicle diverted from its normal path. Atlanta dermatologist Dr. Angela Love Bookout says, "The growth phase in a hair's lifecycle determines its characteristics, such as its length and diameter. At any point, a gene mutation of a single follicle, due to trauma or environmental influences, can result in a longer, darker hair. And, once it has mutated, it will continue to grow that way."

It may be related to your hormones

New York dermatologist Dr. Debbie Palmer says that women in their 40s or 50s often experience hair growth in areas they hadn't previously. "Androgens (male hormones), specifically estosterone, are responsible for the changes," she explains. "Estrogen levels decrease during menopause, creating a disruption in the balance between estrogen and testosterone that can cause hair to grow darker or longer."

WHAT TO DO **ABOUT IT**

Pluck individual hairs or use a depilatory

Plucking a random hai ay work better than pically a longer time fo ength of the hair so that i grows back lighter, shorte



La-tweez Illuminating Tweezers, \$26, latweez.com

Try an at-home hair removal device

If you're looking for a more permanent answer, Dr. Bookout suggests laser hair removal, which she says is considered the gold-standard for those with darker hair. "The advent of FDA-approved, do-it-vourself laser and light-based hair removal systems has made these pesky hairs easier to treat on your own at home. I consider these systems safe as long as you follow the



Completely Bare Facial Moisturizer & Hair Inhibitor, \$10, ulta.com

See a dermatologist

If DIY methods aren't producing the results you hoped for, it may be time to see a doctor, "Some at-home hair removal systems aren't advised for those with certain hair or skin colors, but a dermatologist has access to different tools and technologies," says Dr. Bookout. "For lighter skin types with dark hair, I suggest the BBL laser, and for darker skin types with dark hair, the Nd:YAG laser. Both will permanently reduce unwanted hair.'



LumaRx IPL Hair Removal Device. \$379 nordstrom.com

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