

## Xtreme Lashes give semi-permanent length, fullness

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Want to know a secret?

You know the women lolling about on those mascara commercials, batting their thick-n-pretties at the camera? The ones with flawless skin and perfect teeth and eyelashes so long and full they may qualify as a new, attractive species of arachnid?

Yeah, those are totally fake.

Oh, don't act surprised. As much as you layer on your Maybelline Great Lash or Cover Girl Lash Exact mascaras, you can't make those little hairs look nearly as perfect as Eva's or Latifah's. And those fakes from the drugstore never feel right. The glue's too tacky or not tacky enough, and the lashes are too heavy to be remotely comfortable.

Enter Angela Handy. She's the only Xtreme Lash technician in the area -- with Giovanni's salon in Bradley -- and once she gets done with her ladies, their semipermanent lashes won't fall off in the water and will hold fast for two to three weeks. Plus, they can roll out of bed and look like they just applied a fresh coat.

### A relaxing procedure

Xtreme Lashes come in small pots like lip gloss, and are separated by color and length. Colors range from black and brown to blue and purple, and lengths range from 7 millimeters to 15 millimeters, or just longer than half an inch.

The first Xtreme Lashes session usually takes about two hours, Handy said. Clients lie back in a chair similar to the one a dentist uses, except the ambiance at Giovanni's is much more relaxing: fewer drills, more violins.

The Xtreme Lashes room is cozy, with a deep purplealmost-brown paint job. Two long, thin sconces adorn one wall, and the windows are covered by dark curtains. Handy's Xtreme Lashes certificate is displayed in a frame. The lights are dim, save the spotlight Handy uses above Kimberlie Stuth, whose eyes are closed throughout the treatment.

Stuth recently took a seat in Handy's chair for a lash touchup. Stuth, of Bourbonnais, already had a full set of lashes, and she's in for her third appointment. She has anti-wrinkle patches beneath her eyes, which serve a dual purpose: They protect the skin while Handy works, and they treat wrinkles.



**Photo: Nicholas Holstein**

Kimberlie Stuth, of Bourbonnais, has Xtreme Lashes put on by Angela Handy at Giovanni's Salon in Bradley.



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### **A supermodel at 8 a.m.**

Handy works with two sets of tapered tweezers. One is used to part Stuth's lashes until Handy isolates a single hair. She uses the other to pick up a black synthetic eyelash from her work tray. She coats one end of it in the black adhesive and uses that end to coat Stuth's eyelash with the same adhesive. Once the synthetic hair and the actual hair are coated, Handy attaches one to the other. She uses a small hand blower to dry the adhesive before moving to the next. "It's pretty tedious, as you can see," Handy said.

Handy's clients range in age from 24 to eightysomething, Hardy said, and they get the lashes for all different reasons. Stuth is a competitive bodybuilder, and for competitions, she said, she has to get all glammed up; the lashes negate the need for mascara or fake lashes. Stuth has friends who want them, too. One is a Latin dance teacher who likes to get dressed up for demonstrations.

Some, like Stuth, get the lashes for vacation. Others will get them for a wedding or other special occasion. Handy has one client who lost much of her hair to chemotherapy. When her eyelashes grew back, they were thinner than before, and she loved what the new lashes did for eyes and her self-esteem, Handy said.

"I don't know what woman doesn't want beautiful, long, thick, full lashes," she said, though Handy's never had them herself. Being the only certified Xtreme Lash technician in the area, she'd have to go to Chicago for a pair and pay up to \$200 more for the service. "You can come out of the shower and look wonderful. You can wake up in the morning and look beautiful."

### **Getting the most wear**

Though Xtreme Lashes are semi-permanent, women have to take proper care to make sure they get the most use out of the lashes.

"The less you do with them, the longer they last," said Angela Handy, who received her Xtreme Lashes certificate in December and applies the lashes at Giovanni's the salon in Bradley.

She gives these suggestions to make sure the lashes last:

- There's really no need to use mascara with these lashes on, though if you must, stay away from waterproof kinds.
- Try not to rub your eyes. The friction and oil from your fingers will weaken the adhesive.
- Don't use oil-based products, like make-up remover or moisturizers. They will strip the lashes right off. Keep beauty products oil-free.
- Traditional mechanical eyelash curlers will bend or crack the lashes. Use a heated curler instead.

~ Jaclyn Youhana