

## Going Green: Blue Planet Beauty

For a more intimate setting, try **Derma Hair Care** (111 Rowell Court, Falls Church; 703-241-4004), incongruously located in an office park. When owner/founder Honi Borden's sons and husband began to develop mysterious skin irritations, she committed herself to finding green ways to help both her family and her clients. Derma Hair Care went from being just a hair-removal center (laser and electrolysis) to a company dedicated to treating the mind, body and soul.

What troubles Borden is that she can't go entirely green. While "all products are as organic and chemical-free as possible" — from the soap in the bathroom to the USDA-certified organic cottonballs — she has to make compromises, especially in her hair-removal services. Razors must be disposable; the same for cleaning wipes (which are, however, unbleached). Maintaining hygiene is also an eco-obstacle: her paraffin wax foot treatment (\$20) uses individual booties to soften feet, rather than the typical communal vat of wax. "Here is the dilemma," she says. "It's not biodegradable, but it is sanitary. I do as much as I can do."

Borden's pride and joy is her Aqua Detox Body Detoxification (\$70). For a client's first treatment, Borden sits companionably on the floor with a mug of tea. Your tired dogs go into a foot bath, into which Borden dumps in a handful of salt, then an electrical ... thingy. The idea is the negative ions of the salt water will go up into your body through your feet, bind with the toxins in your body, then leave, again through the feet. At this point in the explanation, I was mentally rolling my eyes at the nice but obviously crazy lady. She fired up the machine, and the water started to change colors — first to a gunky brown, then black, then slimy green. Of course, the Amazing Technicolor Footbath didn't convince me of much. But when I left, I had the same pleasant achiness that follows a deep-tissue massage. That night, a sudden burst of energy sent me into a cleaning frenzy, and I slept better than I had in recent memory.

For a touch of summer, the herbal spray-on tan (\$30 partial bod, \$55 total body), made of brown sugar, water and beet juice, gave me a healthy glow. It didn't last as long as a chemical-ridden spray tan, however, and faded in about four days.

\*This is an excerpt from the article that was written by Kristen Page-Kirby, an Express staff writer.