

Merkin

Merkin Foo

Merkin Goo

Merkin Skroo

In the early 17th century a merkin was a pubic wig. Merkin also meant an artificial vagina and later developed into a slang term for the female genitals.

As to why people would use pubic wigs, now at least you can know that merkin came from 'malkin', according to the OED. This was a diminutive of Maud or Matilda, and was used as a typical name of a lower class, untidy or sluttish woman, especially a servant. It was also the name for a female spectre or demon, a rag mop, a scarecrow and a rag puppet. Presumably the rag mop was the inspiration for the word merkin.

Here are some of the reasons people used merkins:

- They used to shave off all the pubic hair as a cure for syphilis, so the well-to-do used wigs.
- Before penicillin was around to ease the lives of the promiscuous, merkins were used to cover up any sores prostitutes may have obtained in the line of duty.
- They used to treat the syphilitic with mercury, which caused baldness.
- The merkin is for women with no pubic hair. Some people just don't develop hair down there, and this can be embarrassing.
- In days of old, a common problem was lice. One of the ways people dealt with this was to shave all the hair off their bodies, including arms, legs, and pubes. - Wigs became very popular. Pubic wigs caught on slowly, starting among the kinkier set, but eventually became halfway respectable.
- A merkin is a crotch wig for both men and women and is usually worn on the outside. That little fur "purse" in front of a Scot's traditional outfit is a merkin.
- In a country of mainly dark haired people, a prostitute may wear a blond merkin to be unusual and therefore more desirable.
- One of the more recent uses is to allow exotic dancers to comply with local laws prohibiting full nudity. They wear what amounts to a flesh-colored panty with hair on the front, appearing to the patrons of the establishment to disrobe completely without actually doing so.

Combo	Lig	Unicode
Alt+0166	fi	00A6
Alt+0170	ft	00AA
Alt+0172	fl	00AC
Alt+0178	ffi	00B2
Alt+0179	ffl	00B3
Alt+0181	N̄	00B5
Alt+0184	tt	00B8
Alt+0185	ff	00B9
Alt+0186	fh	00BA
Alt+0188	st	00BC
Alt+0189	ct	00BD
Alt+0190	ft	00BE