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Q&A

How to Color Your Hair at Home

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO TELL IF A SHADE WILL LOOK GOOD ON ME?

It's all about your complexion, says Christine Thompson, color director and co-founder of N.Y.C.'s Spoke & Weal salon. If your skin has warm undertones, like yellow, gold, or red, you want to find a hair color with opposite, cooler undertones, like ash brown or black. Does your complexion have a hint of blue or green in it? A warm, rich copper or auburn will be flattering. Keep in mind that if you're looking to go lighter than sandy blond, it's best to consult an in-salon pro. The high level of bleach in lightening dyes can cause breakage (hello, split ends).



Fekkai
Apple Cider
Shampoo,
\$20; fekkai
.com.

OOPS! WHAT HAPPENS IF I...

Leave the dye on too long?

Hit pause on your *Scandal* marathon and reach for a clarifying shampoo. Apply it like a mask and allow the formula to sit for five to 10 minutes. "Since these shampoos are astringent, they can often strip away excess pigment," says N.Y.C. colorist André Viveiros.

Stain my skin?

Since like attracts like, rub a small drop of dye over stained skin to break up the pigment that's already settled in, says Viveiros. Then wipe it all off with a damp cloth. And before your next at-home dye job, remember to first coat stain-prone areas, like your forehead and ears, with a layer of petroleum jelly, which will act as a barrier.

Hate the color?

For shades that appear too warm, try redyeing hair with an ashier version of the hue you applied originally. (For example, if you used chestnut, correct with taupe.) If you went too cool, warm things up with a golden-based dye. Just wait a day or two in between to avoid chemical overload and breakage. And if your hair has turned an unnatural color, like orange, get to a salon—the correction process may require multiple bleach-laden steps.



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