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Toner is translucent and won't show up on dark hair colors. It is designed specifically for use on light hair. See more answers Ask a Question Thanks Thanks The Vitamin C process is to keep your hair smooth and healthy. Avoid using hydrogen peroxide in the sun. It can damage your hair follicles. Advertisement Co-authored by: Professional Hair Stylist This article was co-authored by Michael Van den Abbeel and by wikiHow staff writer, Mason Martinez, BA. Michael Van den Abbeel is a Professional Hair Stylist and the Owner of Mosaic Hair Studio and Blowout Bar in Orlando, Florida. He has been cutting, styling, and coloring hair for over 17 years. Michael loves showing his clients how to wash and wear their hair easily and effortlessly. Mosaic Hair Studio and Blowout Bar is recognized as a Diamond Top Tier level Wella salon. This article has been viewed 1,443,302 times. Co-authors: 18 Updated: February 26, 2024 Views: 1,443,302 Categories: Coloring Hair | Lightening Hair Color Print Send fan mail to authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 1,443,302 times. "I colored what was to be medium blonde, but it turned out to be dark brown. Oops. So I turned to this site and was delighted to find instructions about using clarifying shampoo and baking soda, which I had on hand. Thank you for the help. Keep up the good job!"..." more Share your story Persians//Getty ImagesYou're no doubt spending much more time at home right now—and if you've missed an appointment with your colorist and aren't sure when you'll be able to go back, it may be time to take matters into your hands. With a little know-how and a willingness to follow directions, coloring your hair is easier than you might think—even if you've never done it before. "Just go for it. If it doesn't work out, at least you're not seeing anyone, and we'll hopefully be back to fix it soon," says Kali Ferrara, a hair stylist and colorist at The Salon Project at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City. Of course, you want results that will make you feel better about the state of your strands, and Ferrara has practical advice to get you there. Here, she breaks down step-by-step tips that will make dyeing your hair at home a success.View full post on Youtube 1. First, pick the right color.For best results, Ferrara recommends touching up new growth or grays only at this time, rather than switching to an entirely new color. For brunettes, "my best advice is to always skew lighter than what appears on the box," she says. So, if you think your hair is medium brown, you're actually probably light brown or dark blonde. If you're blonde, go for a semi- or demi-permanent color or glaze that is one shade darker. "This will help to just blend your roots into your blonde, which can also camouflage some gray," says Ferrara. (She also suggests avoiding henna and metallic dyes completely.) 2. Don't mix colors.Tempted to create a new color at home by mixing two shades? Ferrara has a simple answer to that idea: don't. You should also avoid mixing brands. "You don't know what is in each particular brand's box, and it could result in a chemical reaction that could ruin your hair or turn it into a funny color," says Ferrara. Some brands offer half shades, so you should be able to find one that works with what you have.3. Keep it natural—at least, for now.Now isn't the time for a dramatic change, even if that's exactly what you want. If you really want to go from blonde to brunette or brunette to blonde, Ferrara urges you to wait it out and see a professional stylist. The same advice applies for highlights—this is not easy to do at home and get a result you're happy with. (Remember: A professional color correction can be expensive and there's no guarantee it can be fixed.)4. Test it first.You just brought a box of dye home. Great! But, you won't be coloring your hair today. Test the color on a small patch of hair 24 hours before, says Ferrara. (Some brands will suggest allowing 48 hours for the patch test, so read the back of the box and follow the directions.) Waiting this amount of time means you'll know you won't have a reaction to the dye and it will also turn out to be a color you like. Choose a spot you can see, above your ear but away from your hairline, and use your finger to apply the solution to your scalp and roots, she suggests.5. Get your supplies ready. The box kit will include everything you need to apply the color, like a squeeze bottle, which is used to direct the color onto your hairline. Your stylist at the salon likely uses a bowl and brush, but using a bottle is easier for at-home dye, which tends to be runnier than the product at the salon, says Ferrara.Things can get a bit messy, so you'll also need gloves and a towel, too. Grab your hair dye (two boxes if you have long hair, just in case), four hair clips, a tail comb, and hand cream while you're at it. 6. Prep your hair and skin.You don't want color staining your forehead, so apply a layer of hand or face cream around your hairline, says Ferrara. Then, brush your hair and part it down the middle. Divide your hair into four sections (one in front to your right, one in front to your left, and two in back), securing each with a clip. 7. Start applying the color.The dye should be applied to dry hair. Read the instructions on the box first in their entirety, so you know the basics of the process. That said, those instructions can read confusing if this is your first time dyeing your hair at home or you haven't done it in a while. Start at one of the front sections and apply the color to your hairline (this is the area from your ear up to your forehead and down to the other ear), avoiding your skin as much as possible. Repeat on the hairline of the other front section.8. Move on to your part.Apply the color to your top part on one side and then again to the other side. Be sure to sufficiently cover hair with the product in the new growth section only, says Ferrara (unless you're blonde, more on that below!). Blend the product into your roots with your finger. Using the end of your tail comb (or the tip of the bottle if you don't have a comb), take a ¼- to ½-inch horizontal section, then flip it over to the other side of your head. Apply color to the new growth section of your roots, continuing this process down your head until you get to your ear. Repeat on the second front section of hair.IF YOU'RE BLONDE: Only touching up the roots might leave a defined line, so your process might be a bit different. To get a better blend, Ferrara suggests pulling the color from roots to 1/3 down your hair shaft, then comb with a wide tooth comb. Wait 10 minutes and check the shade. If you're not happy, "mush the rest of the color with a little water all over for two minutes" before rinsing, she says.9. Then, color the back.First, outline each back section with the color. Take a ¼- to ½-inch horizontal section at the top, apply color to the root area to saturate strands, flip over and repeat, working your way down your head. Finish the fourth section. You should have now applied the color product to the new growth and roots all over your head. 10. Finish up-and wait it out.Apply the color to your hairline one final time. Set a timer according to the directions, which might be between 15 to 30 minutes. Again, follow what the box says. 11. Clean up. Clip your hair back. Saturate a cotton ball with astringent or warm water and rub on your forehead around your hairline to remove any dye on the skin. 12. Protect your hair.Apply conditioner to any portion of dry hair where you want to preserve the existing color (like if you have highlights) or ends. 13. Wash the dye out.Wash your hair out using a shampoo designed for color-treated hair. If you're using brunette dye and don't want to get color on your fingertips, wear gloves. Really get in there and scrub the color off your scalp. Continue until the water runs clear, says Ferrara. Shampoo one more time and apply a conditioner for color-treated hair.14. Maintain your new hue.Now that you went through all that effort, you'll want to preserve the color. Always use shampoo designed for color-treated hair. Ferrara recommends limiting washing to twice per week to avoid premature fading. Check out the products she loves below.Support from readers like you helps us do our best work. Go here to subscribe to Prevention and get 12 FREE gifts. And sign up for our FREE newsletter here for daily health, nutrition, and fitness advice.Jessica MigalaJessica Migala is a health writer specializing in general wellness, fitness, nutrition, and skincare, with work published in Women's Health, Glamour, Health, Men's Health, and more. She is based in the Chicago suburbs and is a mom to two little boys and rambunctious rescue pup.