



The Best Hair Color Removers to Buy in 2022

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Hair coloring is a fun way to change your look, but the results can sometimes be unpredictable. Whether it's inexperience or bad product choices, a botched dye job can leave your hair spotty, muddy or a completely different color than you intended.

Fortunately, you don't have to live with a bad hair color. Hair color removers are formulated to remove the dye from your hair, leaving you with a clean slate. In most cases, you can recolor right after removing the dye.

Finding the best hair color remover can be a challenge. With so many products to choose from, you may not know where to start or what to look for when buying one.

If you're needing a quick-fix, our hair color removers are the best choice. If you're happy to gently erase the color over time, look at our color-correcting shampoos and conditioners. If your neck or face have been the victim of hair color stains, the wipes at the end of our list is what you need.

In our guide, we'll explain what to look for when comparing hair color removers and share our top picks for the best hair color removers on the market in 2021.

What to Look for in a Hair Color Remover

When choosing the hair color removers on our list, there were three main things we looked at: the product formula, the application process and the effects of the product.

Effective Formula

With hair color removal, the goal is to shrink the large molecules caused by **oxidative dyes** into small particles. Once broken down, those molecules can easily be lifted from the hair and washed away. The process also breaks down the ingredient that produces the color.

Hair color removers achieve this shrinkage and removal process through the use of chemicals, typically persulfate and peroxide. Other effective ingredients include:

- Hydrosulfite
- Ammonium chloride
- **Sodium lauryl sulfate**

When comparing hair color removers, look for one of these ingredients.

Toners, which are similar to color removers, eliminate brassy and unwanted tones in lightened hair. These products work a little differently. Instead of causing a chemical reaction, they deposit blue or purple color into the hair to cancel out unwanted red or gold tones.

If your goal is to remove red and gold tones from your lightened hair, a color-depositing product is ideal. Blue is better for orange and red tones, while purple is better at canceling out yellow tones.

Easy Application

Although most hair color removers are relatively easy to use, some may require multiple steps and additional products that can complicate the process.

For home use, look for products that are easy to apply. Some products come in kit format and include everything you need to remove your hair color. Kits are ideal because you don't have to worry about measuring.

Other products come in a small packet and the powdery solution will need to be mixed with a developer. These products come with detailed instructions on measuring and mixing. Developers are easy to find and relatively inexpensive.

Both methods are straightforward, so it's really a matter of personal preference here. If you want a simple solution that eliminates all of the guesswork, a kit may be the better option. If you want more control over the degree of color removal, you may be better off mixing and measuring the product yourself.

Product Effects

Another important thing to consider is the effect of the product. Does it damage the hair? If so, how much damage will it cause?

Keep in mind that your hair has already sustained some damage from coloring. A harsh color remover will only add to that damage, and it may leave your hair looking and feeling like straw.

Ideally, you want a product that removes color in the gentlest way possible.

If you need results quickly, these hair color removers will rapidly restore your hair to its natural hue.

Powertools CBC Color Balance Corrector



Why we like it: Color Balance Corrector is a versatile solution for removing brassy, red or gold tones from hair.

Editor's Rating: ★★★★★

Removal Formula

Just as its name suggests, Color Balance Corrector (CBC) balances blonde tones for cooler blonde shades. The blue color depositing effect removes unwanted brassy, red and gold tones for true platinum, gray and ash blondes.

Application

CBC comes in a liquid applicator bottle for easy use and application. The product can be added to your shampoo or conditioner for effortless color correcting.

Detailed instructions eliminate any guesswork by telling you exactly how many drops to add to your shampoo or conditioner. Color correcting takes just 5-10 minutes, so it's a quick solution for anyone who needs quick color changes.

Effects

CBC's results are subtle, but effective. It will remove red, gold and brassy tones from blonde hair, but it cannot remove bleach from the hair (no product can).

Because this product uses color deposits to remove and balance your hair color, it won't cause additional damage or breakage.

Pros

- Easy to use
- Can be added to shampoo or conditioner to correct your color
- Works in just 5-10 minutes

Cons

- Blue tint stains clothing
- Isn't potent enough to remove strong colorations.

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