Tackling the gray

One of the fastest growing industries during the shutdown is hair dye. While some are embracing their gray, many can’t bear the site of nature taking its course in their head. But local hair stylists are pretty clear when it comes to tackling your gray, leave your hair color to the professionals. "For maintaining hair at home, always try to use the same products your stylist uses. If you have any access to the products, always ask your stylist what she suggests. It is never good to just pick something off the shelf especially because it smells good," said Wanda Anderson of Serenity Studies.

ReShonda Tate Billingsley

HELPING OUT-OF-WORK BEAUTY PROS

Many professionals in the beauty industry have been forced to close shop for the foreseeable future and lay off employees. Since they only make money when they’re working in a salon with clients, it has become a struggle to make ends meet and pay bills while they are out of work for an undetermined amount of time. Some stylists are also concerned that this new era of doing-it-yourself will lead to people getting comfortable and giving up on the pros altogether.

If you’d like to support beauty professionals, here are a few tips:

Buy gift cards to use later: Purchase them from your salon to use at a later date when it’s safe to go back to a salon.

Pay them for a future service: If your beauty professional isn’t currently working, pay them CashApp, Venmo or Zelle for a future appointment to help them have some income now.

Do a Skype or FaceTime appointment at home: If you’re not sure how to do a hair or skin treatment and want a professional’s advice, ask if you can pay them to help you over the phone or via video chat.

Q&A: "I am a nail salon girl, in the meantime and in between time, I’m doing blue with Color Street nail applications. It’s real polish in strip form that you just stick on your nails. They last between 14-21 days and you just remove it with polish remover. Quick and easy to apply and I feel like I actually wanna look at my nails now!" – L.J. Johnson

Do It Yourself

QUARANTINE BEAUTY REGIMEN

How some people are weathering the isolation storm:

“I removed my nails last night. Acetone was taking too long. I saw a YouTube video on how to remove my nails with Zipper Stripper sewing supplies. It did the trick.” – Paulette Harper

“I soaked my nails off a couple weeks ago. My daughter and I are keeping our hair in a bun. We’ve been troubleshooting twists until further notice. Wash, condition, moisturize and rewind every week. I did teach her how to do braids a few weeks ago.” – Staci Vite White

“Bought a gel nail lamp and drill it arrived today from Amazon.” – Theona Smith

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“Using quarantine as an opportunity to buy and try new hair products and hair styles every few days. Also, using a pedicure kit, tub, Epsom salt, Listerine combo for at-home pedicures. Making just fine…” – Nicole Scott

“I graduated from YouTube Protective Styles with a certificate, I had hair for an appointment (before this), so I used it. Used the rubber band method to put in twists. I will say for the first time I did a decent job. If needed to go out, no need for a headwrap anymore. My stylists need to be aware; if I have to do this for a few more times, they won’t be seeing much of me.” – Bonita Lee Penn

“My hair is still holding up for now. I have never applied a relaxer or color to my own hair myself and I don’t believe this is the time to start. I have short hair and have never worn a scarf to bed, but I am now finding a scarf to be helpful in keeping the new growth flat!” – Jackie Simion

“I’m about to blast it up. YouTube is a lifesaver, the only issue I’ve had was getting the extra products I’ve needed. I think it’s also a good time to experiment with different things that I wouldn’t have done if I went out every day. I’m having a little bit of fun with it. Also learning how to cut my own hair!” – Nicole Bird Lester

“To get back 15 years to my cosmetology days. Found a distributor to bring supplies to my door step, no kinks for me!” – Qianaoi James

“I soaked my dip off… warm up that acetone a bit. It works faster.” – Bridgette Wilkins

“I bought a pair of clippers and cut all my hair off. Something I had been afraid to do. Best decision I’ve made. I wish I had done it sooner. It’s healthy and looks sooo good.” – Shermoria Robinson

“… waxed brows, lip and chin. I [might start] saving that $150 a month!” – Stephanie Alfred

“So far I’ve given myself a manicure and clipped and filed my toenails (no polish)… waxed brows, lip and chin. [I might start] saving that $150 a month!” – Stephanie Alfred

“My stylist put together kits w/products she uses, i.e. shampoo, conditioner, wrapping foam, oils, etc. She ships it to you overnight. Once I used her products I was good. My hair came out great.” – Tyla Gordon-Mapp

“Nails are fragile and short. I took my brads out, Lord why did I do that? Anyway, attempted to relax my natural hair… EPIC FAILURE. So my roots are straight and the ends are curls. I’ve also ‘trimmed’ my ends twice and now I’m bald headed.” – Esperita Edwards Garrison

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