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## Does opened hair dye expire

Dying your hair seems like a simple, fairly easy way to save some cash—until something goes wrong. Then panic mode sets in. (Even some Allure editors have, on occasion, screwed up at-home dye jobs.) But as Cosmopolitan reminded us today, the best thing you can do when you're the subject of a hair-dye fail is laugh, like these poor souls who documented their misfortune for the world to see.Word to the wise: Color inside the lines. We know that's basically next to impossible near your roots, but it's worth a try. You don't want to end up like this girl, who stained her entire forehead brown (which we're guessing didn't come off for a day or two at least). If things do get a little messy, wipe away the dye before it has time to process to avoid this fate.Yes, colorists often cover bleached hair with plastic while it processes. But they definitely don't use a grocery store bag. This blonde learned that the hard way when the green logo from the plastic bag she used transferred onto her freshly bleached hair. Yikes.Not every hair-dye disaster happens at home. Sometimes the pros have a bad day, too. (Comforting, right?) We have a feeling this wasn't what this woman meant when she asked for dip-dyed ombré hair at her local salon.Want more laughs? Head on over to Cosmo for more fails.To learn how to get glossy hair, watch: Every now and then, we all get struck with the age old question — should I dye my hair? And with it comes the millions of other questions about upkeep, which shade to choose, and whether or not we can pull it off. It may not seem like a big deal, but dyeing one's hair can feel like quite the reawakening.That's because, as a society, we've placed a lot of meaning on hair color. If you go darker, you'll suddenly be viewed as mysterious. And going lighter will obviously guarantee you'll have more fun. It's almost like you're choosing a new personality for yourself, and thus it can feel like quite the major life decision.I'm mostly joking, but only slightly. Because whether we fall for stereotypes or not, changing the way you look does have a psychological effect. Anyone who's gone through a breakup and dyed their hair, or changed their hue for a new job, can attest to the magical powers of a new look.That's precisely why hair dye can be so fun. But what's not so fun? The upkeep, the price, and all the other maintenance woes that come along with it. So even if you gone through the process of deciding on the perfect shade, it's still possible to be met with indecision.If you've found yourself on the fence, then here are few things to keep in mind before dyeing your hair.1. It Requires Quite A Bit Of UpkeepIf you've had natural hair all your life, or it's been a while since your last dye job, then you're likely unaware of what a chore dyed hair can be. Monthly salon visits, touching up your roots — it can all be a bit much.So upkeep is something to keep in mind, especially as you choose a shade. As Alle Connell noted on DailyMakeover.com, "If you're just going slightly darker than your natural color, maintenance will likely be really easy. If it's a more dramatic change, prepare yourself for visible roots. You'll need to re-up your color every three to four weeks to keep your color fresh and your roots concealed..." If that's something that bothers you, opt for a less dramatic change.2. That Upkeep Can Get Hella ExpensiveSure, a box dye is what, seven bucks? That's not so bad. But if you've gone and gotten yourself some expensive highlights, or you're trying a shade far off from your natural hue, then expect lots of pricey salon visits to keep it all looking fresh.3. You'll Need All New Shampoos & ConditionersForget your cheapo drugstore shampoo. Colored hair demands a lot of TLC, which often means dropping cash on some decidedly expensive products. According to Lila Glick and Kelly Searle on TotalBeauty.com, "It makes no sense to spend a fortune on coloring your hair at a salon only to use hair care products that strip the color at home. So stocking up on proper hair care products post-treatment is an absolute must." This will likely include color-safe shampoos and conditioners, as well as styling products, that help maintain color and prevent fading. It's not the biggest deal ever, but it's something to consider.4. The Prettier The Pastel, The Faster It FadesThose pastel hair colors are so beautiful, and yet they require a bit more upkeep than your average shade. That's because these light colors aren't exactly known for their staying power. Plus, you'll probably have to bleach your hair, which can be quite the process (and leave you with roots for days).However, it is possible to keep pinks and lavenders looking good — it'll just require a little work. As Marianne Mychaskiw noted InStyle.com, "Crayola shades tend to fade faster than their natural-looking counterparts, so to keep your ... hair fresh, you'll need to remove any conditioners or shampoos that contain sulfates from your routine, as they could strip the color. In between salon visits ... use a color-depositing conditioner every other time you shower." It'll take some considerable work, but the results will probably be worth it.5. It Can Damage Your HairDyeing your hair one or two shades different isn't the worst thing ever. But going super light with bleach can be pretty damaging, as can going really dark. According to Connell, "Dark dye is a commitment ... going from dyed dark to light again is very hard. Not only is it technically difficult ... it's incredibly rough on your hair." If you're going for either of these extremes, plan on sticking with it for quite a while.6. The Color On The Box Might Not Be All It's Cracked Up To Belf you're going for the drugstore boxed dye, don't rely on the photos if you want an accurate idea of what color you'll end up with. As Christina Heiser noted EverydayHealth.com, it's common to go by the model on the box, but unfortunately this isn't always a surefire way to figure out the exact shade you'll get. That's because the model may have had a different base color than you, which means you'll end up with a totally different shade.To prevent being disappointed, skip the photo and pay attention to the numbered shade scales. One is the darkest, and ten is the lightest. And then take a look at the letters — A means ash, G means gold, C is copper, and N is neutral, Heiser pointed out. This will be a better barometer to judge the color by.7. Take Your Skin & Eye Color Into AccountIf you're going for a natural look (which I understand is not always the case), you'll want to take your own coloring into account when choosing a hair dye. According to Heiser, "If you have a lot of pink in your skin, avoid warmth in a hair color because it will make you look flushed. Those who have olive skin tones should opt for gold tones, which bring warmth to the face and make skin look less green. If your skin tone is neutral ... with no pink or green, you can wear either warm or cool blonde shades."8. Your Makeup Preferences May ChangeOne of the best things about dyeing your hair is that it truly demands a whole new you. I'm talking new clothes, new makeup — the whole thing. That's because your old color palette will likely clash with your new 'do, so some changes may be in order. As Connell noted, "The makeup that looked good with lighter hair may look too severe (or not severe enough) with darker dyed locks ... Be open to experimentation..." And a few fun trips down the makeup aisle.If you're OK with all of the above, then happy dyeing!Images: Santi Nunez/Stocksy; Giphy (8) If you just can't get to the salon or you're keeping an eye on your budget and want to take matters into your own hands when it comes to your hair color, the best hair dyes for dark hair are powerful enough to color even black hair but gentle enough to not seriously damage it.Now, there some things you might want to leave to the professionals, like bleaching your hair, but if you understand what you're doing and you proceed with caution, you can change many things up at home. Manage ExpectationsTo play it safe when it comes to permanent dye at home (especially if you're just starting out), stick with a shade two shades lighter or darker than your natural hair color. And keep in mind that the model on the box might not be the color you'll get (especially if you're going lighter). You'll need to refer to the color examples for that. If you have dark hair, getting permanent blonde or rainbow pastel hair requires many, many steps and over-treating your hair can be damaging so that kind of serious transformation might be best left to the pros. However, there are one-day spray-in accent options available in a range of fun colors like bright purple and blue that will work on dark hair. Prepare & Take It SlowIt's no secret that hair dye can be messy. To keep the mess to a minimum, I find that puppy piddle pads are great for covering your work surface and catching any rogue splashes of hair dye. And make sure to leave yourself enough time for the application and for the color to develop.So if it's time for a refresh and a salon visit isn't in the cards, scroll on for some great hair dyes for dark hair to get things rolling. We only recommend products we love and that we think you will, too. We may receive a portion of sales from products purchased from this article, which was written by our Commerce team.1The Overall Best Permanent Dye L'Oreal Paris Excellence Creme Permanent Hair ColorAmazon With a pre-color treatment that contains conditioning ceramide, a color creme with pro-keratine, and a conditioner with collagen, your hair is protected through every stage of the coloring process with L'Oreal Paris' Excellence Creme. The no-drip formula offers healthy color that lasts an incredible eight weeks. Choose from a range of colors including lots of shades of black and brown. Helpful review: "I have been trying to dye my hair successfully to dark brown for almost a year now, whether I dye it at home or go to a salon. Every time my hair would turn into a dark brown red, always red in it no matter the shade I chose. [...] I bought this Dark Ash Brown hair color and boy let me tell you [...] I'm so happy and satisfied and for the price!" 2The Best Permanent Hair Dye For Touch-Ups Clairol Root Touch-Up Permanent Hair Color CremeAmazon Clairol's Root Touch-Up is ideal for permanent quick root fixes and comes with a precision brush tool that really gets down to the end of the root for amazing coverage. The color only takes 10 minutes to develop, and it lasts about three weeks. Choose between packs of one or two. Helpful review: "I am covering up VERY grey roots in my center part and along my temples and it covers VERY well, blending nicely into the rest of my hair. [...] As my hair grows (I wear it long, to my mid-back), the color of Root Touch-Up does lighten a bit BUT STAYS NEUTRAL BROWN. No red overtones. No brassy overtones. This is critical for me and what makes this product ideal for me. It's the ONLY hair coloring product I've ever use that gives me the brown shade I want." 3An Ammonia-Free Semi-Permanent Hair DyeFormulated with 80% naturally derived ingredients, and infused with a conditioning blend of coconut oil and aloe vera, Clairol Natural Instincts is semi-permanent hair color that's ammonia-free and less damaging on your hair than many other options on the market. To make things even easier, the color develops in 20 minutes, and gives you color that lasts through 28 washes. There are over 20 shades available on Amazon with lots of blacks and browns. Helpful review: "I picked the color solely by looking at the front picture, which is very dark aurburn-ish red. The name though says "plum burgundy brown", which is what I got pretty much- very dark brown with slight red undertones. It doesn't cover the gray completely, but it blends it very well, kind of looks like highlights."4A Bright Semi-Permanent Dye Without Bleach Splat 30 Wash No Bleach Formula Amazon If you want to make a colorful change while avoiding damaging your hair, Splat's hair dyes offer a pop to shake things up in a semi-permanent way that lasts 30 washes. Available in rich colors including blue and red on Amazon, Splat does not contain bleach, and it conditions while you color. However, a few reviewers report that this can be a messy one to use. Helpful review: "My natural hair color is between dark brown and black [...] To be honest i think is the best result a dark brown hair can hope for without bleach and the help of the professional. The bathroom did turned blue but I was able to get the stains out with Tilex that contains bleach."5A Color & Highlight Kit For Multidimensional Color L'Oreal's Couleur Experte color and highlights kit brings together a permanent base color and highlights that coordinate perfectly in one neat little box. And it's easy enough to use, just apply the base color and then add in the highlights. The blue "high-visibility formula" and the enclosed fingertip applicator helps with the precise application of the highlights. The end result is hair color with dimension from a box in about 30 minutes. The only drawback might be that the color range is more limited. Helpful review: "I have been using this product for 10 years now and I still get compliments about once a month on the color. It's a dark brown/red that in the sun is stunning in it's varied hues. It is very easy to use. I use the highlight kit more in the summer when it makes sense that you would have highlights. But whether you do or don't the color is wonderful."6A Temporary Hair Color In 10+ Bright Shades Need a change without the commitment? L'Oreal Paris' Colorista temporary hair color spray might just be the ticket. The spray-on formula is like makeup for your hair, and because there's no developer and no bleach, your hair is perfectly safe. You could try a new color every day of the week if you wanted to, or even use two at a time — with 11 colors, the choices are endless. And this temporary hair color spray couldn't be easier to use, just spray it on for the day and wash it off when you're done. Quite a few users have noted that the color transfers easily, so washing it off is important. Helpful review: "Color will transfer to clothes or anything else so keep that in mind. That being said, it does have good color payoff and really does wash out with [one] shampoo. Just be sure you buy several cans if your hair is longer than shoulder length." Photo © Kendra Aarhus If your clip-in human hair extensions arrive and aren't quite the right color for you, it can be massively frustrating. But for the crafty out there, or anyone who wants to save some money, this doesn't have to be a problem. In fact, not unlike standard human hair, you can just dye them to your preferred shade. As long as you're making your extensions darker or altering the tone (for example, making them warmer or more ashy,) it's a simple at-home process. A word of caution, though: If you want to lighten or highlight your human-hair extensions, consider enlisting the help of a professional stylist. You can attempt it, but it's a trickier, more involved process—one that can be damaging to your already expensive investment if done wrong. Before you begin, double- and triple-check that your hair extensions are true human hair. Artificial hair cannot be colored successfully, at least this way.

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