

COLOURING HAIR THE ESSENTIAL TESTS

Are you getting more and more clients asking for the Insta hair of their dreams? Debbie Digby, Chief Executive of Passion4Hair, says we shouldn't forget to carry out essential tests before beginning any complex services.

The skill set of a stylist is dictated by the trends of the day and as those trends change it's vital we update and transform our skills. Today, the needs and desires of the client are more complex than ever as trends take the shape of more diverse looks and fashions.

SKIN TEST

Skin testing is important, especially if a client has been colouring their hair for many years. If you fail to follow manufacturer's guidelines you could find yourself falling foul of your insurance company or worse, being responsible for a client reaction.

HOT TIP

KEEP WRITTEN RECORDS OF ALL TEST RESULTS AND CONVERSATIONS YOU HAVE WITH YOUR CLIENT

STRAND TEST

If you are doing a complex service, a new service for a regular client or a new client, my advice would be to carry out a strand test. You can strand test on or off the head depending on what you are testing. If you are testing off the head you should cut samples of hair from inconspicuous places, preferably in a couple of different parts of the head to test if the hair is different at the sides and the back. Strand testing will allow you to pre-plan your services with accuracy.



Incompatibility test



Porosity test



Stretch/pull test

INCOMPATIBILITY TEST

Take a small piece of hair and put it into a solution as directed by the manufacturer's guidelines for the product you are using. You are checking for adverse reaction that can be seen by the hair or lotion heating up, changing to an unexpected colour or bubbling.

POROSITY TEST

Porosity is the measure of the compactness of the cuticle layers of the hair. Take one strand of hair that is clean with no product on and put it into a clear container of room temperature water. If the hair floats it has low porosity, if it settles midway it is normal and if it sinks it has high porosity.

STRETCH/PULL TEST

Take approximately 10 clean wet hairs between your index finger and your thumb on both hands, one inch apart. Now pull the hair and observe the stretch. It should easily stretch one third (to an inch and a third) and immediately return to its former one-inch. If it is difficult to stretch or appears to be stiff, it needs moisture for more flexibility.

A sample colour technical sheet is available to download at:

concepthairmag.co.uk