

ANN MERIN

Hair color: the big switch



WE'VE ALL SEEN the photos of celebrities, like Cameron Diaz, who sample darker shades of hair color and then seem to easily return to blonde before the next issue of our favorite celebrity magazine hits the stand. Many of us who usually strive to maintain the perfect shade of blonde secretly wonder what we'd look like as a brunette, and these celebrity transformations make switching back and forth between light and dark look effortless.

The truth is that returning a client who has thrown a darker shade over previously lightened hair to a natural-looking blonde is generally a long, tedious, multi-step process. The photos that you rarely see of hair chameleons like Cameron Diaz are the ones during the in-between phase of this process, when their hair rests at a reddish, gold hue.

Have you ever looked at a salon menu and seen a high priced service called "color correction"? If you are trying to get back to blonde, then you have finally discovered the need for color correction – and the reason why it is usually priced by the hour and requires a consultation.

With that in mind, here are a few things to know if you are still game to transform into a brunette this fall, but wish to someday return to blonde:

- Do not try any of this at home. These are tricky services that require a professional.
- A semi-permanent dye (we recommend either Paul Mitchell PM Shines or Redken Shades EQ) will be less damaging to your hair and easier to remove than a permanent dye.
- Going back to blonde without destroying your hair is not a one-day service.
- Prepare yourself to go through that "in between phase" I mentioned.

Collaborate with your stylist to pick a shade you can live with for at least a week or 2 to so you can give your hair some much-needed recovery time during the transition.



Ann Merin is the owner of Beauty Heaven, a full-service salon specializing in hair color, hair cutting, Great Lengths hair extensions, eyelash extensions and makeup application.

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