

# stretch the time between TOUCH-UPS

BLACK ROOTS ON BLONDE JUST AREN'T HAPPENING, BUT WHATEVER YOUR SHADE, THERE ARE WAYS TO MAKE RE-GROWTH LESS OF A HASSLE.

**T**he simplest way to avoid frequent root retouches is also the most obvious: Choose a haircolor that's close to your natural shade. Go a bit lighter, brighter, darker, warmer or cooler for a change that gets noticed but doesn't scream unnatural once roots start to grow out. In other words, if you're a redhead, stay that way; the same for blonde or brunette.

If you aren't covering gray, you can choose a semi or demi-permanent color, which fade away in six to eight weeks so retouches aren't a problem at all. Also, choose a warmer color; it'll be softer and more light-reflective than cool or ashy shades so roots won't look as harsh.

## Tricks With Highlights

According to Sandi Pavlik, a salon service educator for the Wella Corporation, salon colorists have a whole bag of tricks for creating low maintenance shades with highlights. Whether you keep your natural "base" or change it and add highlights at the same time, get the highlights staggered and you can go an extra couple of weeks between retouches.

Explains Pavlik, "Colorists can stagger the starting points of highlights so they're not all right at the scalp. With some an eighth or a quarter of an inch from the scalp, re-growth will look more natural."

Also, says Pavlik, ask for several shades in the same tone or different tones. Blondes grow out better with tone-on-tone highlights that mix up three to four shades of blonde in both lighter and darker tones.

"The idea is to emulate a child's hair, which is never one solid color," says Pavlik.

Another alternative is to mix up different tones like reds and golds. For re-growth that's optimally minimized, always add both warm and cool shades. Another key to highlights that extend retouches is to keep them on the small side and avoid anything stripy. In other words, none should be horizontal or vertical, because straight lines look hard to the eye. Instead, ask your colorist to place them on a 45-degree angle or a diagonal. They'll look—and grow out—lots softer, visually speaking.

Another idea salon colorists use is to part off the top or surface hair near the temples and add color splashes on the underlayers. It's a great way to have exciting color and no visible roots at all. Last season, colorists added chunks of blonde or rich brunette tones; the newest Wella trend, called "Singles", places both highlights and lowlights within underlayers.

At Roche Salon in Washington, D.C. Dennis Roche hides roots



**Slick Trick** Expertly applied highlights can make re-growth less noticeable, even when hair is ultra-blonde like ELISHA CUTHBERT'S.

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