

Troubleshooting: My Hair Smells Like a Wet Dog

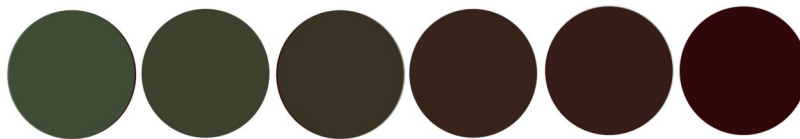
Some people love the smell of henna and hennaed hair. Some people absolutely hate it. Some people think it has a healthy, earthy, natural smell like a forest floor. Some people think it smells like a wet dog or a rusty iron. If you do not like the smell of henna, you can nearly eliminate that smell by adding ginger powder. Add one heaping tablespoon of ginger powder per one hundred grams of dry henna, and stir the powders together until the ginger disappears.



If you would prefer a spicy smell in your hair that masks henna, add one heaping teaspoonful of cardamom powder to one hundred grams of dry henna, and stir until the cardamom powder disappears.

If you hate the smell of indigo, add one heaping teaspoonful of instant vanilla pudding powder per one hundred grams of dry indigo powder, and stir until the vanilla pudding powder disappears.

Troubleshooting: Indigo Turned My Hair Green



Indoxyls may remain briefly unoxidized in your hair, but they'll turn the right color very soon

It is unusual for hair to be green after applying indigo, or a mix with mostly henna and some indigo. This is most likely to happen if the water in your area is alkaline and the indigo remains, temporarily, in the indoxyl state. The indoxyls will completely oxidize fairly quickly, usually within one hour, sometimes as slowly as one day.

Troubleshooting: My hennaed hair is getting too dark



Henna stained hair darkens gradually over weeks and months, even over years.

Once you have achieved the henna color you like, only henna the roots as they grow in to avoid the older growth from becoming too dark. If your local water supply is alkaline or has dissolved minerals (hard water) darkening may be more rapid. Hennaed hair can be lightened with applications of mild peroxide. It is more prudent to have several applications of a mild solution, than to use one high volume application. Always test first!

If you style your hair with a hot comb, your hennaed hair may become very dark very quickly. If you don't want your henna to darken from heat, don't use a hot comb.

Troubleshooting: I Just Hennaed My Hair and It Is Too Orange

This is the inverse of 'my henna is getting too dark.'

"Orange panic" is not an unusual reaction to one's hair just after rinsing. The best way to deal with the orange henna color before it binds and oxidizes is to be patient. The henna stains in your hair will darken over a few days, and more over a week.

If you MUST hurry up the process, you can use heat, alkalinity, or indigo to force the darkening, but these come with the risk of darkening too much, too quickly, which leaves you with the predicament of figuring out how to lighten the color.

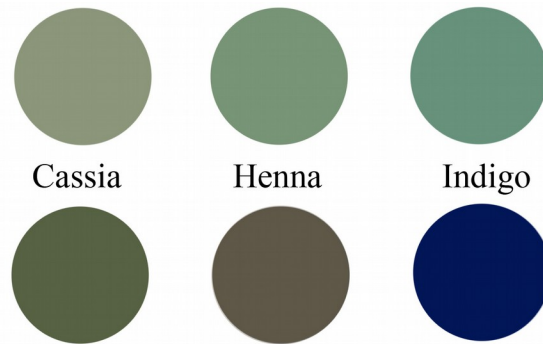
Heat will darken hennaed hair. A heat styling comb or blow dryer held close to the orange area will darken the henna. This darkening is not easily reversible, so be cautious with heat; heat styling combs and blow drying can damage hair.

Alkali can rapidly darken henna, but it can also make henna alkalize to greenish black.

An indigo gloss may slightly subdue henna which is too bright. The best solution is to wait for two weeks, evaluate the color of your hair, and then, if you feel like a brunette color would be better for you than henna red, dye your hair again with a henna-indigo mix.

Troubleshooting: I Don't Know What I Have

If you have lost track of what powder you have, add water to a little of the powder and wait to see what color it turns. If you're used to what cassia, henna, and indigo smell like, you can probably guess which one you have.



The difference in colors of cassia, henna, and indigo if you mix them with water and wait to see the color change

If you have cassia, the surface will have little change of color overnight. Cassia smells like newly mown grass.

If you have henna, the surface will turn brownish overnight. Henna smells like hay.

If you have indigo, the surface will turn dark blue in about an hour. Indigo smells like frozen peas.

Troubleshooting: I Made a Mess

If you have stained your bathtub or shower with henna or indigo, the stains will come off by scrubbing them with a scouring powder that contains bleach.

If you have stained your linoleum, apply bleach to the stain.

If your cotton pillowcase or clothing is stained with henna, wash with bleach. Henna will not permanently stain cotton unless you set the stain with heat, such as a steam iron.

Henna will stain wool, silk, and rubber. You will not be able to remove the stains without damaging the object.

Troubleshooting: I Mixed My Indigo, Got Interrupted, and Forgot About It

Once mixed with water, indigo powder rapidly loses its ability to dye. If you accidentally left it out more than half an hour, it may be useless. Get more indigo powder and start over.

Troubleshooting: my hands are orange

Henna stains palms vivid orange, and this color will probably darken and last for three weeks. Don't forget to wear gloves when you do your henna. Even prolonged soaking in peroxide and washing with a whitening kitchen scrubbing powder doesn't remove much of the henna. If your hands have saturated, dark henna stains, you're probably going to have to be patient until the stains exfoliate. The stains will last on your fingernails until they grow out.

Indigo will also stain palms, but the stains don't last as long.

Troubleshooting: I Hate This, I Want My Chemicals Back

As long as you used Ancient Sunrise® henna, indigo and cassia, you should be able to safely migrate back to chemical hair dye, but please test first!

Ancient Sunrise® Henna for Hair Chapter 12 Troubleshooting

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