

RELAXER STRAND TEST

Just before performing a relaxer service, or on the day you perform the patch test, take a few strategic test strands to ensure the relaxer is the right strength, the hair remains in fairly good condition, and the hair relaxes as expected. This will save you many unwanted surprises. (Figures 15-9 and 15-10).



Fig. 15-9 Sufficiently relaxed strand.



Fig. 15-10 Insufficiently relaxed strand.

Select a strand at the back, and one on each side of the head. Separate each strand from the rest of the hair, apply the relaxer as directed, and monitor the relaxation process. Midway through the recommended processing time, lift each test strand, gently stretch and release the strand, and observe the curl reversion. You can also do this by using the back of a comb to remove the relaxer and then observe the curl reversion. Is the hair halfway there? Almost there? After this point, check the test strands at five-minute intervals until the process is complete.

Relaxer Safety Tips

Refer to the following for helpful safety tips for before, during, and after the relaxer service.

Before Relaxer Service

- Use only plastic or glass bowls and plastic clips when relaxing hair. Do not use metal.
- Apply relaxer to hair that has not been shampooed for one week.
- Apply if the client has fragile hair and avoids swimming in the ocean, soaking in chlorinated hot tubs, and participating in other activities not compatible with fragile hair.
- Decline a relaxer service if the hair has been treated with henna, which interferes with all texture services.
- Decline a relaxer service if the hair has been treated with metallic dyes, which are chemically incompatible with relaxers.
- Establish a treatment program to restore the hair's strength and elasticity before scheduling a relaxer service.

During Relaxer Application

- Precisely apply base cream without overlapping on hair that will be relaxed.
- Wear protective gloves when performing every relaxer service.
- Avoid using two different relaxer types. Do not apply a hydroxide relaxer to hair that has been relaxed with a thio relaxer and vice versa.
- Apply a relaxer formulation appropriate for the client's hair texture and condition.
- Apply to the midshafts, then the scalp area, then the hairline, and finally the ends when performing a virgin relaxer.
- Use your gloved fingers to smooth the relaxer through the hair. Do not use the teeth of a comb.
- Separate the hair in sections using your fingers, the tail of a tail comb, or an applicator brush without touching the scalp.

⚠ Caution!

Sodium hydroxide and thio relaxers are chemically incompatible and can cause severe damage—even hair loss—when mixed or overlaid on the hair.

- Never use *sodium hydroxide relaxers on hair previously relaxed with a thio relaxer.*
- Never use *thio relaxers on hair previously relaxed with a hydroxide relaxer.*



Fig. 15-36 Basic wrap.

Wrapping Patterns

There are four common patterns of wrapping the rods: basic wrap, bricklay wrap, spiral perm wrap, and a double-rod (piggyback) wrap.

BASIC WRAPPING PATTERN

The **basic wrap**, also known as *straight set wrap*, is a wrapping pattern in which all the rods within a panel move in the same direction and are positioned on equal-sized bases; all the base sections are horizontal and are the same length and width as the perm rod. The **base control** is the perm rod's position in relation to its base section, determined by the angle at which the hair is wrapped (**Figure 15-36**).

BRICKLAY WRAPPING PATTERN

The **bricklay wrap** is similar to the actual bricklaying technique (see **Chapter 12, Hairstyling**, p. 398). Base sections are offset from each other row by row, to prevent noticeable splits and blend the hair's flow. Different bricklay patterns use different starting points (front hairline, occipital area, or crown) that affect the hair's directional flow. The bricklay wrap can be used with various combinations of panels, base sections and directions, wrapping techniques, and perm rod placements (**Figure 15-37**).



Fig. 15-37 Bricklay wrap.

SPIRAL WRAPPING PATTERN

Spiral perms utilize the spiral wrap technique in which hair is wrapped in vertical, or near vertical, sections. This allows the permed hair to naturally fall in *ringlets* or *corkscrew curls*. The wrapping technique itself produces a uniform curl from scalp to end. Longer hair (past the shoulder) benefits most from this effect (**Figure 15-38**).



Fig. 15-38 Spiral perm wrap.

DOUBLE-ROD WRAPPING PATTERN

For extra-long hair, you may need to use a **double-rod wrap**, also known as *piggyback wrap*, in which the hair is wrapped on one rod from the scalp to midway down the hair shaft (**Figure 15-39**), and another rod is used to wrap the remaining hair in the same direction. This allows for more even curl from scalp to end and better processing solution penetration.



Fig. 15-39 Double-rod (piggyback) wrap.



wrap can be used with various combinations of panels, base sections and directions, wrapping techniques, and perm rod placements. Follow the steps for performing the permanent wave using a bricklay wrap in **Procedure 15-5**.

Ⓟ 15-5: Permanent Wave Using a Bricklay Wrap
See page 589

Perm Using Spiral Wrap

For this perm, wrap in vertical, or near vertical, sections to allow the permed hair to naturally fall in *ringlets* with uniform curl from scalp to end. Follow the steps for performing the permanent wave using a spiral wrap in **Procedure 15-6**.

Ⓟ 15-6: Permanent Wave Using a Spiral Wrap
See page 592

Perm Using Double-Rod Wrap

For extra-long hair, wrap on one rod from the scalp to midway down the hair shaft, and then use another rod to wrap the remaining hair in the same direction to create an even curl from scalp to end. Follow the steps for performing the permanent wave using the double rod (piggyback) wrap in **Procedure 15-7**.

Ⓟ 15-7: Permanent Wave Using a Double-Rod Wrap
See page 595

Soft Curl Perm

For this perm, you will use a thio relaxer to loosen the curly texture followed by a perm that wraps the relaxed hair in large perm rods or curlers. Following the service, consider recommending the use of a processing cap at night for moisture retention. To avoid compromising the curls, hair must not be shampooed for at least 48 hours after the service. Follow the steps for performing the soft curl perm (chemical curl reforming) in **Procedure 15-8**.

Ⓟ 15-8: Soft Curl Perm (Chemical Curl Reformation) *See page 598*



☑ Check In

33. Which perm wrap is ideal for clients with extra-long hair?