

Change hair colour

This unit introduces you to the techniques of colouring. You will learn about the different products available and the effects these may have on the hair along with the various different methods used for colouring hair.



You will learn performance criteria relating to:

- ⌘ **maintaining effective and safe methods of working when colouring and lightening hair**
- ⌘ **preparing for colouring and lightening hair**
- ⌘ **colouring and lighten hair**
- ⌘ **providing aftercare advice.**



See online or CD/DVD learning material for more information.



This symbol means that you should add information to your workbook/textbook as relevant. The online or CD/DVD learning material will give you more information if required.

Prepare for colouring and lightening

This preparation involves carrying out a consultation to find out the client's colour requirements.

When the client is choosing a colour shade, it is essential that you understand the colouring principles so that you can help them make an informed decision.

Tests must be carried out before colouring and lightening to ensure the client's hair and scalp is suitable for the process.



Understanding colour

White light is a mixture of colours. This is shown when rain falls on sunlight and a rainbow appears. In hairdressing you will need to distinguish the primary and secondary colours.



**Add the
colour star here**

The colour star

The achievement of a desired colour, can be explained by the concept of a colour star. All colours are made up from the primary shades yellow, blue and red. Secondary shades are produced by mixing the primary shades together.

Other colours can be made by mixing the primary and secondary colours together. The various possible colour combinations are achieved by differing the proportions of the primary and secondary colours.

Red, yellow and orange are the warm colours on the colour star.

Blue, green and violet are the cool colours.

Opposite colours on the colour star will neutralise each other. For example, if a colour appears to look too green it can be neutralised using a warm shade.



Natural colour

Natural colouring pigment in the hair is called melanin and is found in the cortex.

Pheomelanin are the red and yellow colouring pigments.

Eumelanin are the black and brown pigments.

White hair is hair without pigment (colourless hair is called canities).

Grey hair is a mixture of natural coloured hair and white hair, often expressed as a percentage.

Colour depth is a term used to describe the natural lightness and darkness of the hair.



Choosing colour

When selecting a target colour, you must first use a shade chart to select the client's base colour. All shade charts use a system, which is similar to the international coding system ICC (International Colour Code).

Base colour describes the natural lightness and darkness of the hair (depth) and will be from 1 (black) - 10 (lightest blonde). This will be the first number on the chart.

Any following numbers describe the tone of the colour.

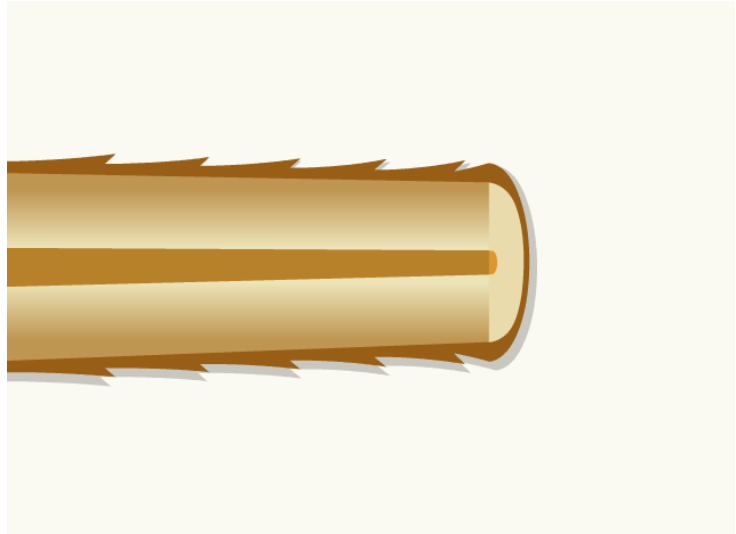


Semi-permanent colour

Small colour molecules are deposited in the hair cuticle or wedged under the open cuticle.

The colour molecules are lightened a little each time the hair is shampooed. This causes a gentle fading of the colour.

 **Add the colour molecules**



Semi-permanent colours are collectively called nitro-dyes. The dyes will darken the hair, add strong colour tones, blend in white hair, and achieve a subtle colour change.

The colour lasts between 6-8 washes.



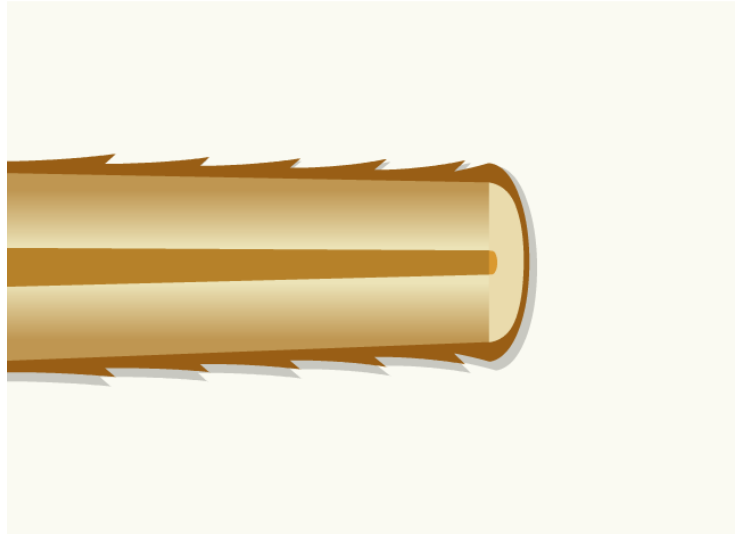
Quasi-permanent colour

Quasi-colour lasts longer than a semi-permanent colour but not as long as a permanent tint.

The colour molecules do not penetrate as far into the cortex as the permanent tint.

Unlike the semi-permanent colour it fades over a longer period of time and will lighten, colour and tone the hair. Like permanent tint there is usually a re-growth line.

 **Add the colour molecules**



Most quasi-colours are mixed with their own developers containing a low percentage of hydrogen peroxide. The colour molecules are oxidised by the oxygen from hydrogen peroxide.

Quasi-colours are popular because of the variety of fashion shades to choose from as well as natural shades.

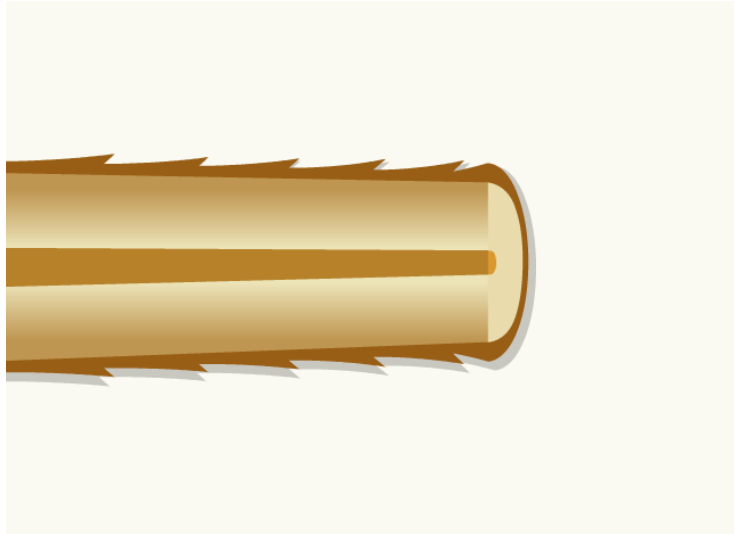
They are more effective and are longer lasting than semi-permanent colours. They are not so harsh on the hair, add shine and contain conditioning properties.



Permanent colour

With this type of colour the molecules penetrate the cuticle and are absorbed into the cortex. The colour molecules are oxidised by the hydrogen peroxide and it remains permanently deposited in the cortex.

 Add the colour molecules



Tint remains in the hair until it is cut out and will darken, add tone and lighten the hair.

Hydrogen peroxide is required to be mixed with the tint in order to activate it.

On the basis of the choice of tint, the strength of hydrogen peroxide required is determined by whether the hair is to be tinted darker or lighter.

In general a hair being tinted lighter will require a peroxide of 30 volume (9%) while hair being tinted darker, or within its base colour depth, will require a strength of 20 volume (6%).



Add the colour molecules

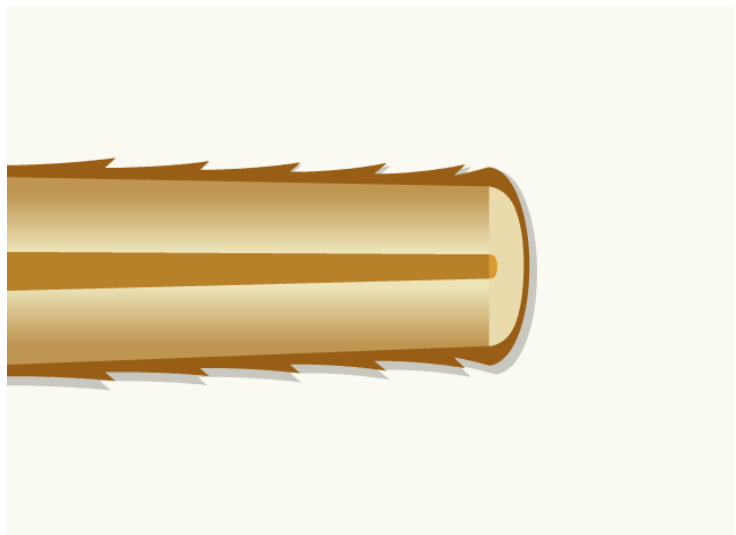
Bleach

When bleach is mixed with hydrogen peroxide, oxygen is released. The product penetrates the cuticle and then the cortex. Oxygen mixes with the melanin in the cortex creating oxymelanin. This oxymelanin is colourless.

The oxygen forms with the different colour pigments in a certain order:

1. black
2. brown
3. red
4. orange
5. orange yellow
6. yellow
7. pale yellow

Bleach remains within the hair until it is cut out.

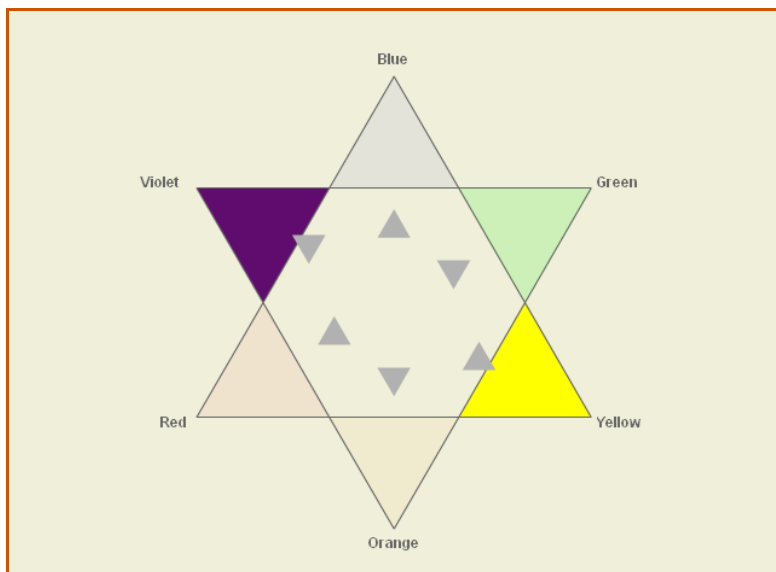


Bleaching products

The two most commonly used types of bleaches are:

- ⌘ powder bleach used for highlights (most powder bleachers are not recommended for use on the scalp)
- ⌘ emulsion oil cream or gel bleach used for full head treatment.

In general hair being bleached will require a peroxide of 30 volume (9%).



Toning

It may be necessary to remove the yellow tones from the hair after bleaching. Violet may be used to neutralise.

If used, toner should be applied to damp hair, starting at the roots and working towards the mid-lengths and ends.

The products should be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.



Preparation for colouring/lightening – consultation

A consultation is carried out to establish the client's ideas about colour and to discuss a target colour they wish to have. Any questions they may have should be answered, for example how it is possible to achieve the target colour.

Establish the client's natural hair colour by examining the hair for previous treatments.



Before colouring and/or lightening the client's hair, you must check that it is viable to do so. You can do this by:

- ⌘ checking the client's records to see if they have had any previous allergic reactions to colouring products
- ⌘ asking the client during the consultation if they have had any adverse effects from colouring
- ⌘ visually checking the client's hair and scalp
- ⌘ carrying out skin and hair tests, referring to manufacturer's instructions at all times.



Ensure that any responses or results are recorded for future use.