

# ELDORADO



## **Guide to Understanding Hair Systems**

Men and women have come to count on Eldorado Hair Replacement Center's experience and hair restoration and hair replacement solutions to help them restore not only their hair, but to allow them to pursue their goals and life with confidence.

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# Guide to Understanding Hair Systems

By Hank T (an actual client)

Do you want to know the best thing about wearing a hair replacement system?  
They look real...

Do they take an infinite amount of time styling, primping, combing and brushing? No! Hair replacement systems look fabulous, but they don't demand an endless amount of time to look like they are real.

Naturalness is the key. Whether you choose synthetic or human hair, the pleasures and rewards of hair replacement are waiting for you. Along with the pleasures and rewards of having a full head of hair, there are a few do's and don'ts to keep in mind.

Any hair system, no matter how expensive, can have an unnatural appearance. Once you learn some of these simple rules, it is surprising how easy it is to keep your hair system looking fresh and natural.

Simplicity goes a long way in the world of hair systems. A "system" or "unit" that is conditioned and picked, or brushed for a minute or two, can look much more natural than one that has been blown dry and brushed every which way for an hour. Additionally, that "damp hair" look goes a long way. It's attractive, in style, and it's easy! You may want to put down the blowdryer and hair spray and let simplicity take over. Styling too much will often be detrimental in getting your unit ready. Keep it simple.

Are you ready for the do's and don'ts for wearing a hair replacement system? As with a jigsaw puzzle, these are the little things that make up the big picture. As for your happiness, you apply the do's. You can avoid these don'ts to save yourself the displeasure of having to find out for yourself. Let's begin!

## Do's and Don'ts

You'll want a stylist who is readily available, confident and sincerely cares. Seek a professional that knows the hair replacement industry. Find someone who understands your needs and will listen. A good stylist will keep you updated on the latest products and trends. Your stylist needs you just as much as you need him or her. This is a bonding relationship where you help each other.

**#1** A template will be made. The template should contour to the natural shape of the area to be covered. It takes only minutes to have a template made. This template will designate size, shape, contour and recession.

The template is vital to your unit fitting correctly. A system that fits perfectly is comfortable and is easily secured. When your system contours to the natural shape of your head it becomes aerodynamically sound and it makes the difference between you feeling uncomfortable or secure.



The hairline should be believable! Men and women have different hairlines. Men tend to have a recession. Women tend to have a more square hairline. An age appropriate hairline makes it look more natural.

**#2** Color blending is paramount. There should be a seamless transition from the system to your growing hair. By using the same combination of highlights and various shades, your unit will take on your exact color. If your own hair is dabbed with gray, this can be imitated. Your unit can have the same ratio of gray. Your unit is made to simulate your own hair.

Once your unit is on, you should have an extremely hard, if not impossible, time telling where your own hair meets the hair replacement system. The density or “quantity” of hair should match. The wave pattern (curl) should blend. There should be no line of demarcation.

**#3** Do allow you stylist to cut your new hair. Once again, you need a stylist you trust. A qualified stylist won't be the least bit nervous. They do this all day long! Relax, and above all, enjoy the transition. Don't overcut the system as it won't grow back! Book a follow-up visit a few days later for minor fine tuning. This is a VISUAL and MENTAL adjustment. Go home and let your new unit settle on you. There may be an adjustment period for you psychologically. You will be fine!

**#4** Find a method of attachment you are comfortable with. What's the one secret method of attachment? I'll tell you...none! There is no best way. All methods have advantages and disadvantages.

All attachment methods offer security. If they didn't, they wouldn't stay on the market. Attachment method is a personal choice. It may be determined by lifestyle, age, gender or preference. Some folks want a "permanent" hair system while others may want a "removeable" one. Do you work out? Are you retired? Is image important to your job? Are you very social? These questions will help you determine the type of attachment method that works for you.

**#5** If you color your growing hair, make sure the hair system matches. Many women like a lighter shade around their face. Men grey faster in their temple area. Make sure the colors match!

A unit looks more natural if it's too light rather than too dark. It's an easy process to have your unit and hair colored if necessary. A hair system that matches your own hair will be easier to style because it will blend better. You won't have to mess with it.

**#6** You can wear a hat. Going for a windy walk by the beach? Riding down a mountain on a bike? Need extra security? Wear a hat. Wearing a hat will keep the sun from lightening your hair. Hats can certainly help out if you wear a hair replacement system, but they also flatten your hair down. Is this flattening permanent? Fortunately, it's certainly not. You'll only need to wet the hair again and restyle it. And don't be afraid that wearing a hat will ruin or flatten out permed hair. It may affect the way it looks after you take the hat off, but all you have to do is spray the system with water and restyle. It only takes a few minutes and it's that simple. Hair styles when wet, not when dry.

**#7** Keep your hair system clean. Whether you wear a hair system or not, clean hair is more attractive than dirty hair. Although your hair replacement system won't have a natural source to make it become oily, it is exposed to all of the dirt, smoke and grime our environment can throw at it. When your hair becomes oily, it will not blend well with your hair replacement system. Even if your own hair became oily, would that be appealing? Regular shampooing of your unit, as well as your own hair, should be made routine. Your studio has all the wet products to keep it clean and looking natural. They also have the conditioners and styling aids to give you a specific look. Since this is "processed" hair, it is important to use the proper products. You want to avoid color fade, premature shedding and styling abuse. Good styling tips will help you maintain an easy, carefree, natural look.

How frequently should you wash your hair system? There is no specific time. Shampoo as often as needed. I've discovered a good frequency is every other day. If you are oily and have a permanent attachment, consult your stylist on this. Everyone's scalp and hair is different.

Find a shampoo that is gentle on your hair system. It should be Ph balanced and recommended for color treated hair.

**#8** Do use conditioner on your unit. Conditioner adds moisture to your hair. The hair in your unit will need this moisture for a number of reasons. First, conditioner will keep your hair from becoming too dry. Without a natural source of oil, it's easy for your system hairs to become this way. Conditioner adds softness, which makes your hair system more manageable. Soft, conditioned hair will be less likely to break. It will be much easier to comb and style the hair. You won't have to fight tangles.

Conditioner will also add a natural sheen to your hair. It gives it a natural look instead of a dried out "wiggly" appearance.

How often should you condition your hair? If you wash your hair every other day, condition it every other day. Conditioner is easy to use, add it to your hair for a few minutes and then rinse it out. I also recommend a good leave-in conditioner. It can add elasticity to the hair (great for long hair) and when damp, allows the hair to be styled more easily.

One important note on conditioners: too much conditioner will leave your hair flat and heavy, and if you don't use enough you don't get the important benefits. If you feel you are using too much conditioner, cut back until you find your hair has fullness yet contains the moisture it needs. This will take trial and error.

For longer hair, use a pick or large tooth comb on your hair after you get out of the shower. It will be a lot easier than using a brush or regular comb on your conditioned hair. A pick is better than a brush because it gently lifts hair. It doesn't pull at it like a comb or brush can. The pick gently detangles and lifts up the hair, allowing it to lay naturally. Use a pick that has plastic prongs, these are super gentle on your hair replacement system's base. Finesse. Not force.

**#8** Do familiarize yourself with the various attachment methods. There are many ways to keep your unit on. There is no "best method of attachment". All offer advantages and disadvantages. The method you choose should fit in with your lifestyle completely. If you want to take your unit off before turning in every night, you won't want a permanent attachment. If you wear your unit continually, a silicon bonded track may be perfect. Find out what you are totally comfortable with. If you are unhappy with clips because they are too uncomfortable, why suffer? Get rid of them and find another method you can live with. All methods offer solid security. Get an education from your salon professional.

## Attachment Methods

**#1** Double sided tape offers a quick easy method of attachment. You need to clean your scalp where the tape will be applied to remove any oils. Use a cotton ball and alcohol or skin cleanser. Be careful about using some skin cleansers because they contain oils such as peppermint, etc. These added oils defeat the main purpose of the cleanser.

Then tape is applied to the hair replacement system then placed on the head. Placing it can be tricky but easily learned. You're done! Two way tape is inexpensive and allows you the freedom to take your hair system off. You can reattach your system whenever you want. Two way tape may not hold as well as a bonding, but it will hold securely. A hair free, oil free scalp will hold the system firmly in place.

How long can you expect the tape to hold? It depends on what you do. Oily skin will eventually destroy the holding power of the tape. That's normal. Don't give up things in order not to sweat. Tape is easily changed, whether it lasts one day or a whole week, enjoy! As long as you have a supply of tape you can attach your hair system as frequently as necessary.

There is also a special two way tape for swimming. It holds extra secure under water. Ask your stylist where you can pick some up.



**#2** Clips are another method that are easy to use and allow fast removal of your hair replacement system. Your stylist will tell you how many you should use. Clips are lightweight, thin, and simple to use.

These clips are sewn directly onto your hair system. Once they are sewn on, you're free to open and close them as much as you want. Most clips are made from lightweight materials that won't rust; don't be afraid to get them wet. It never hurts to have a few extra clips to keep in a drawer at home. You may want to bring a few along on a vacation or trip, just in case one should break.

Please note that clips will hold better down at the base of your hair, rather than off your scalp an inch or so. They will be much more comfortable this way. When the clips are down close to your scalp there's less chance of your own hair feeling like it's being tugged. Clips can sometimes be uncomfortable. But they don't have to be. Keep them tight and close to the scalp and they hold very securely.

Since clips are used over and over, they are about the most economical attachment method you will find. Many use two way tape to hold down the front of their hair replacement system while clips hold down the side and the back.

**#3** Velcro attachment is a unique method. It is similar to two way tape in that one side adheres to your scalp but the other side is fuzzy Velcro. The other adjoining part of the Velcro is sewn onto your unit. To separate the two pieces of Velcro you give a slight pull and they will rip apart. This allows you to remove your hair replacement system without disturbing the Velcro strips attached to your scalp. If you were using two way tape, you would have to lay new strips altogether. The strips are only one to two inches long, so approximately four sections of Velcro would be sewn onto the unit. The Velcro with the sticky sides would have to be replaced.

You should maintain a continuous supply of the velcro that adheres to your scalp. The Velcro strips cost more than tape. You can cut the velcro sections in half lengthwise to double your supply. My experience has shown that the sticky side of the velcro holds very well. As with tape, the scalp must be free of oil and hair. Once adhered, the heat from your own scalp will make the sticky side bond even more. The strips should hold up to showering, but the water will shorten the bonding "life" of the sticky side of the Velcro. If the Velcro is not holding up to showering, use a minimal amount of water when shampooing. I know this is difficult, especially when you want to relax and let the water pound down on your scalp.

I once noted in a sewing supply store that one rolls of velcro with sticky sides were being sold. The rolls of velcro were enormous and inexpensive! Why not buy the rolls and cut my own strips? This seemed too good to be true, and it was. I found that the sticky side didn't have the same kind of adherent as the ones I bought from my stylist. The Velcro from the sewing supply store didn't hold. It wasn't meant for this purpose.

**#4.** A hairweave. The hair weave is one of the strongest, if not the strongest method of attachment. Hairweaves are easy to do and they are being done all over the world. Why are they so readily available in so many places? Because they have been done for many years for all types of hair additions and extensions.

A hairweave is when your own hair is braided or woven into a small, tight track. The track goes around your scalp where the braid area and your own hair meet. Once the track is woven, it forms a “horseshoe” shape. For additional strength, thread is added when the weaving process is being done. Some may use a “shot” of quick drying liquid glue to reinforce the track even more. Once the track is finished, the unit is sewn onto it. This method hurts when the hair is pulled too tight into the weave. It can also cause your own hair to fall out over time.

Hairweaves are considered “permanent” methods of attachment. You will not be able to take your unit off. Though your track will eventually have to be redone, the term “permanent” method is used because once the system is sewn onto the track, it stays put. The track will inevitably loosen as the hair grows. When a new track is to be woven, the old one is simply snipped off. The hair that has grown out is then used for a brand new track.

The track should last an average of six to eight weeks. This gives you an idea of the security a good hair weave can offer. Since the weave is made from your own hair, you’ll feel it being woven.

**#5.** Points are another permanent means of attachment that resembles the hair weave. A single, continuous track is threaded to the bottom of the system. Your hair is “tied and knotted” to form a “point” on the track. An average number of points ranges between six to nine. Sometimes a “snap” is used where the system uses snaps and the system can be snapped off.

Points are more comfortable than a hairweave. They use a smaller amount of your own hair and there is less bulk than with a hair weave. Points offer solid security, but they lack the overall strength of a hair weave. Points are affixed at “spots” on top of your head and are not used if you have weak and thin hair. Points will loosen as your hair grows out.

How long will your points last? It depends on how well the points are made. An average would be three to four weeks. It depends on how fast your hair grows and how many points you have.

**#6.** The silicon bonded track is another method of permanent attachment. A one inch track is shaved or stubbled around the perimeter of your growing hair.

The hairs are shaved to within a few millimeters. Once this is done, silicon adhesive is spread onto the shaved hairs. The silicon bonds best to an oil-free scalp; ensure the scalp is clean. The layer is spread thinly. A thin layer of silicone is brushed onto the underside of your system. The system is then placed on your scalp and the adhesive bonds the system to your shaved down hair.

The comfort of the silicon bonded track is amazing. There is no pulling of the hair as it's being installed. The curing process takes about 20 minutes. Once the silicon dries, it's water proof, light weight and very comfortable. As your own hair grows out, it will gradually loosen the track by pushing it up off the scalp.

Count on a silicon bonded track lasting an average of three to six weeks. If you have a good bit of your own hair to be shaved down, where the track will be laid, it will stay bonded longer. The silicon bonds to the interlocking of the shaved hairs. The strength of the track is excellent. Do not shampoo for 48 hours to ensure the proper curing of the bonding silicone adhesive.

If you prefer to remove your unit at your leisure, then tape, Velcro or clips should be your choice. If you don't want the responsibility of having to change tape or Velcro every few days, then one of the permanent methods would work best. Remember, when you have a hair weave or trackbond, your system will be on you 24 hours a day. A full scalp bond is when the entire system, not just the perimeter, is bonded to your scalp. It works like a perimeter bond but contact to the scalp is the entire size of the system. This works best for thinner "skin type" hair systems. Bonding duration is determined but the clients scalp oiliness and perspiration. Bonds will last from two to four weeks

### **OWNING MORE THAN ONE HAIR REPLACEMENT SYSTEM**

It's also preferable to have a second hair replacement system in case of emergency. Though highly unlikely, you could wind up under a bucket of paint. You never know when an accident will happen, so having another unit is added protection.

The protection and freedom a second hair replacement system provides makes good, sound sense. It allows you to switch to your other unit while the other is serviced. This can prove to be economical. By having your units serviced regularly in this manner, you'll be spending less time at the studio.

Hair is like shoes. You don't wear the same pair of shoes, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. You change your shoes regularly to get even wear on them and extend their life. Hair systems work the same way. For people who prefer ultra thin systems with an invisible hairline, hair program would be advantageous. You go through a succession of systems due to their thinness and ultra light construction. They look great but wear out quickly, so it's necessary to get a "membership" or program where the systems and services are all inclusive. Plans vary from salon to salon so ask about them from your stylist.

## **ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES TO SYNTHETIC HAIR**

If your hair replacement system is made up of synthetic fiber, rather than human hair, then these next few items are for you. Synthetic hair will hold its curl and color longer than human hair. If you're out in the sun a lot, this offers advantages. You won't need to have your hair replacement system colored the way you would with human hair. The factory curl given to synthetic hair should hold up extremely well. Quality synthetic hair is very difficult to tell from its human counterpart.

Synthetic hair has its disadvantages, too. It can be damaged from heat, and it does not absorb water the way human hair does. Synthetic fiber can be made of toupelon, kane kaolun and polyester. Polyester is the softest and duplicates human hair the best. But synthetic hair does not move the same way as human hair.

## **DO'S AND DON'TS FOR SYNTHETIC HAIR**

The following Do's and Don'ts for synthetic hair should be read by all hair replacement system wearers. The rules won't apply to you, but learning about this synthetic fiber is valuable. Being informed about what's available offers you the most choices. If long lasting curls and color interests you, you may want to consider going synthetic.

**#1.** Do allow your hair to dry naturally or use a dryer on a cool setting. Don't use heat on synthetic hair. Synthetic hair is not resilient; heat can remove the oil which was used in the manufacturing process. Since the hair is a form of nylon, heat can cause irreparable damage. Heat will actually deteriorate the fibers of the hair making it "frizzy". Once the hair splits, it cannot be joined back together. The cool setting on a dryer will not damage the hairs. The cool air will help fluff and add body to the synthetic hair. You may find this helpful when styling.

**#2.** Do keep your factory curl. Don't try to change it. When your unit was made, the synthetic hair was curled by heat and "baked" in place. If you try to change this original curl, your "new" curl will not hold as well. The factory curl will still have its influence on the hair. Likewise, by altering the factory curl, you lessen some of its original shape as well.

**#3.** Do minimize friction. Friction on the synthetic hair will literally break it down. It's a very gradual process, but it does occur. This means by wearing a hat, you apply friction to the hair. Sleeping with your hair replacement system also applies friction. Remember, once the hair is broken down, it can't be repaired. This is extremely important when deciding whether you want synthetic or human hair. Do you wear a hardhat at work? Do you enjoy wearing a hat? If so, you may want to choose human hair. Friction does not affect human hair. It won't cause the hairs to break down. If you plan on wearing a hair system 24 hours a day, using a permanent attachment method, synthetic hair may not be the best choice. Since sleeping applies friction, human hair may be the wisest decision. If you use two way tape, and remove your unit at night, you'll likely appreciate the benefits synthetic hair offers. What are your interests? What is your lifestyle? These should dictate whether synthetic hair will work for or against you.

**#4.** Do wash your synthetic hair. Like human hair synthetic hair needs to be kept clean. Clean hair is attractive. Remember, since synthetic hair dries rapidly, a dryer on a cool setting may make your cleansing and styling process faster.

How often should you wash your unit? As with human hair, wash as often as needed. Every other day, to once a week are average intervals for washing synthetic hair. Sometimes a blend of human hair and synthetic fiber work best. When synthetic hair is blended with 100% human hair, a “highlighted” effect can be achieved. If for example, a small amount of gray hair needs to be blended with brown human hair, the gray percentage would be synthetic. Synthetic hair won’t take to coloring as human hair does. After the human hair is colored brown, the synthetic gray hair percentage still remains. Sometimes subtle highlighting is used in a blend. This gives the system added dimension in tone on tone coloring.

For cleansing purposes, blended hair should always be shampooed if it contains over 50% human hair. Conditioners will also help aid in styling. You can use mousse, a leave-in conditioner and hair spray if you desire.

### **SUMMARY/CONCLUSION**

Hair systems are the next best thing to having your own growing hair. They can look undetectable and help restore your confidence.

No matter what type of system and attachment you choose, proper care is a must, so don’t take shortcuts! Use the right products, and ask questions of your stylist. You only notice bad hair systems, not the good ones!

You get what you pay for. If you needed a heart transplant, would you get a cheap doctor? No! Your image is the same. Looking good and feeling good help you succeed at work, in your personal life and in social situations. The investment in yourself is worth it. Make the call today!