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Styling Gel is going to give you the most hold with versatility, says pro hairstylist Mideyah Parker. Meaning you can use it in the foundation of the hairstyle to create the look you're going for, or you can use it at the end as a finishing touch to secure out of place hair. From defining curls to sweeping hair into a sleek low bun, there are many looks to choose from that will work for you. Ahead, everything you need to know about how to apply the best products to achieve your desired look.

This is our StoryBest Shave Foil: Go2B Ultra Glued Invinible Styling Hair GelGo2B Ultra Glued Invinible Styling GelWhy We Love It: Thick hairs type arguably benefit the most from an efficacious gel to lock every strand in place, even if you must work in sections to do so. Both Giannetos and Parker recommend the Go2B Ultra Glued Invinible Styling Hair Gel because the latter wants to make sure the look is secured without any movement. This is one of the strongest gels we list on, ensuring your style will stay in place for hours on end. Pro tip: use it atop your favorite edge control to keep your baby hairs laid all day (or night). Key Ingredients: N/AHold: High holdSize: 6 ozBest For: Thick hair, curly hair, edge controlBest Affordable: Eco Style Olive Oil Styling GelEco StyleOlive Oil Professional Styling GelWhy We Love It: Its often a struggle to make curly hair cooperate, especially when trying to create a slicked-back look. On our list, ensuring your style will stay in place for hours on end. Pro tip: use it atop your favorite edge control to keep your baby hairs laid all day (or night). Key Ingredients: N/AHold: High holdSize: 6 ozBest For: Thick hair, curly hair, edge controlBest Affordable: Eco Style Olive Oil Styling GelEco StyleOlive Oil Professional Styling GelWhy We Love It: Its often a struggle to make curly hair cooperate, especially when trying to create definition without crunchiness or weighing it down. Giannetos likes Eco Styles Styling Gela well-loved formula in the curly community. Its coveted not only for the sheer amount of product you get (one tub will last you a while!) but also for its airy gel formulation that layers seamlessly onto hairmeaning you can define curls or sweep hair into a slick back bun while maintaining bounce and sheen. Key Ingredients: Olive oilHold: Maximum holdSize: 8 ozBest For: All hair typesBest For Sleek Styles: Aveda Confixor Liquid GelAveda Confixor Liquid GelWhy We Love It: Parker opts for the Aveda Confixor Liquid Gel to achieve slick ponytails and more. Its a liquid, so its easy to use and layer. A little goes a long way, so be sure to use it sparingly to avoid overdoing it. And if youre going the slicked-back route, we recommend pairing it with a good barbe brushle brush to smooth out all those baby hairs. Key Ingredients: Ylang ylang, petitgrain, lavenderHold: Medium holdSize: 8.5 ozBest For: Fine to medium hair typesBest For Curly Hair: Ouidad Advanced Climate Control Heat and Humidity GelOuidadAdvanced Climate Control Heat and Humidity GelWhy We Love It: For curly hair types, Parker is a fan of the Ouidad Advanced Climate Control Heat and Humidity Gel. It locks out humidity, prevents frizz and flyaways, and defines curls with a flexible hold. Rake the product onto damp hair in sections then let air dry (or use a diffuser) to achieve soft, bouncy, definition. Key Ingredients: Chamomile and vitamins A and E, wheat protein and amino acids, meadowfoam seed and corn oils, amica flower, ceramidesHold: Flexible holdSize: 8.5 oz / 33.8 ozBest For: Wavy, tight, or curly hairBest Finishing Gel: Crown Affair The Flexible Hold Finishing Hair GelWhy We Love It: Crown Affairs hair gel provides a light yet buildable hold thats easy to brush through. This gel is meant to define and finish styles," says celebrity hairstylist and groomer Michael Dues. "It can be used on dry hair, as well. It tames all flyaways and gives great shine.Key Ingredients: Tsukaki seed oil, jojoba milk, film-form polymerHold: Light holdSize: 4.1 ozBest For: All hair typesBest Alcohol-Free: MoroccanOil Styling GelWhy We Love It: Dues describes MoroccanOil styling gel as an extremely strong hold gel that locks styles in place and smooths even the unruliest curls. It can work well if used sparingly on curly hair to help define and reduce frizz, he says. Great for keeping hair in place while taking a workout class or enjoying a night out, this argan-oil infused gel has you covered. Plus, it doesnt contain alcohol, so it styles hair without drying it out. Key Ingredients: Argan oilHold: Long-lasting holdSize: 6 ozBest For: All hair typesBest For Textured Hair: Bread Beauty Supply Hair GelBread Beauty SupplyHair Why We Love It: Bread Beauty Supplys gel is a dream for textured hair, providing a soft hold for type 3 and 4 curls. Formulated with clean ingredients that are super hydrating (yuzu extract, red algae, snow mushroom), it keeps your curls defined, yet touchable and soft. I love that it contains alo vera and hibiscus, which not only tame frizz but also leave your hair feeling nourished," says Battaille. "If youre after glossy, frizz-free curls that stay in place without that gel feel, this one is perfect. Key Ingredients: Yuzu extract, snow mushroom, red algaehold: Flexible holdSize: 6.2 ozBest For: Wavy, tight, or curly hairBest For Curl Definition: Mizani True Textures Curl Enhancing Hair CreamMizaniTrue Textures Sleek Holding Hair GelWhy We Love It: If youve got curly or coily hair, this gel is a lifesaver, says Battaille. It provides the definition you want without the crunch. He adds, What I really love is how its packed with coconut, olive, and marula oils, so your hair stays hydrated and frizz-free. Its perfect for wash-and-go styles or when you want to define your curls for a twist-out. The result?Shiny, healthy-looking hair with a soft hold that lasts. Key Ingredients: Coconut oil, marula oil, olive oilHold: LightweightSize: 5 ozBest For: Wavy, tight, or curly hairBest Drugstore: Garnier Fructis Pure Clean Styling GelGarnierFructisWhy We Love It: Those interested in clean beauty will appreciate that this gel is made with nearly 100% naturally derived ingredients. Its finish is lightweight and offers a medium hold, making it perfect for daily styling without the heavinessand a clutch option for when you need your look to last all day. Its a budget-friendly and healthier choice for maintaining hairstyles, says Cavalcante. Key Ingredients: Acacia gum, citrus protein, Vitamins B3 and B6Hold: Strong holdSize: 6.8 ozBest For: All hair typesBest Edge Control: Kiss Colors Maximum Hold Edge FixerKiss ColorsWhy We Love It: Battaille says Kiss ColorsMaximum Hold Edge provides a strong hold that keeps baby hairs in place all day long. What he loves most is how many of these gels are infused with hydrating oils, like argan or castor, so your hair stays smooth and shiny without flaking or drying out. Its perfect for when you want a polished, clean finishespecially for updos or as a finishing touch to braided styles where the details really matter. Key Ingredients: Biotin, glycerinHold: Strong holdSize: 3.38 ozBest For: All hair typesBest Low-Wear: Redken Sculpting Curl GelRedkenWhy We Love It: To really sculpt your hair, youll need something with an extra-strong hold, like this curl gel from Redken, which promises an impressive 72 hours of wear. Achieving these results is as simple as applying to damp hair, then styling to your liking; the look basically sets itself. And since its infused with hydrating squalane and jojoba oil, ill be extra nourishing for curly hair types. Key Ingredients: Squalane, jojoba oilHold: Strong holdSize: 8.5 fl ozBest For: Wavy, tight, or curly hairBest For Light Hold: Briogeo Curl Charisma Rice Amoino Quinoa Frizz Control GelWhy We Love It: Formulated to offer a light to medium hold, this gel from Briogeo enhances curl definition while keeping hair moisturized. It works wonders for taming frizz and provides long-lasting hold without weighing down curls, common issue with many hair gels. And in expected Briogeo fashion, this features a host of nourishing ingredients like rice amino acids and tomato fruit ferment which condition the hair during wear. Key Ingredients: Rice amino acids, tomato fruit fermentHold: Light to medium holdSize: 6 ozBest For: Wavy, tight, or curly hairBest For Strong Hold: TRESemm Ultra Hold Hair GelTRESemmWhy We Love It: TRESemms hair gel is an affordable option that can be found at any drugstore when youre in a pinch. Apply it to the surface of your hair and then comb through to smooth it down. Remember: less is more here to avoid any crunchiness. Key Ingredients: N/AHold: Strong holdSize: 9 ozBest For: All hair typesWhat are hair gels used for?Hair gels are primarily designed to shape, hold, and define hair. They are perfect for taming flyaways, creating slicked-back styles, or defining curls and waves. Depending on the formula, Battaille explains that hair gels can provide varying levels of hold, from flexible to rock-solid, catering to a wide range of hairstyles. Dues adds that some gels can boost volume when applied at the roots, blown dry into wet hair for hold, or used to enhance beach waves.How to Choose a Hair Gel for Your Hair TypeParker, whose clients include stars from Natasha Lyonne to brands like Coach and Collina Strada, explains that a good gel shouldnt flake, and shouldnt contain alcohol (which often results in dryness and breakage). Otherwise, Parkers tip is to put a bit of product onto your fingertips to gauge its tackiness and holdthat way she can determine if the gel will work with your hair type. You wouldnt want to put a product on your hair that will do the opposite of the desired outcome.Basically, you want to consider your hair texture and the level of hold you need. Cavalcante explains that for fine hair, lightweight gels that wont weigh down the strands work best. For thicker or curly hair, a stronger hold gel can help define curls and control frizz. Additionally, gels with hydrating ingredients are ideal for keeping hair healthy, strong, and nourished.Is hair gel healthy for hair?Hair gel is not inherently bad for your hair, but it depends on how often its used and the type of gel, Dues explains. Higher quality hair gels use better ingredientsome even impart moisture back into the hair or contain coconut oil, which helps provide nourishment, he says. Cheaper gels are often heavy in alcohol to dry the product quickly, which can strip your hair of its natural moisture. Additionally, overuse of gels, especially those with alcohol or harsh chemicals, can lead to dryness and buildup over time, so its important to choose products that support hair health and regularly cleanse your hair, Battaille says.How to Apply Hair GelCavalcante suggests applying a small amount of gel to your palms and distributing it evenly through your hair, starting from the roots. For curly hair, he recommends scrunching the gel into damp hair or using your fingers to curl each strand individually for a more defined look. For structured styles, such as slicked-back looks, use a higher hold gel to ensure long-lasting control, Battaille adds. Adjust the amount based on your desired hold and finish.Do you put gel on wet or dry hair?Dues recommends applying hair gel to wet hair to help distribute it evenly. Your style will determine whether you apply it from root to ends, just at the roots, or from root to mid-length. He says that its important to emulsify the gel well between your palms and gently rake your fingers through your hair. If youre applying it from scalp to ends, use a wide-tooth comb to ensure even distribution. For curly hair, its best to rake your fingers through with the desired amount, then add more to your palms and scrunch it in for extra definition.Meet The Experts Beast Wash Shampoo promotes healthy hair growth without using toxic chemicals. Shop Organic ingredients will provide you with all-day comfort and skin that's healthier than ever! Shop Promotes healthy hair growth, prevents dry skin. Styles hair with a fragrant low hold, high shine! Shop When it comes to hair styling, gels can be an excellent option for creating a sleek, polished look. But with so many different gels on the market, it can be overwhelming trying to choose the right one for your hair type and desired style. In this article, we will discuss some key factors to consider when selecting a hair styling gel and provide some tips for using it effectively. One of the most important factors to consider when choosing a hair styling gel is your hair type. If you have fine, thin hair, for example, you will want to choose a lightweight gel that will provide hold without weighing your hair down. On the other hand, if you have thick, coarse hair, you may need a stronger, more robust gel to tame frizz and flyaways.In addition to your hair type, you should also think about the specific style you want to achieve. If you want to create a slicked-back, wet look, for example, you will need a gel with a high-shine finish. For a more natural, textured look, a matte gel may be a better option.Look for Quality IngredientsWhen it comes to hair styling products, the ingredients used can make a big difference in the final result. Look for gels that contain natural ingredients, such as aloe vera and chamomile, which can help nourish and soothe the scalp. Avoid gels that contain harsh chemicals, such as sulfates and parabens, which can damage the hair and irritate the scalp.Amounts and TechniquesWhen it comes to using hair styling gels, a little bit goes a long way. Start with a small amount and work it evenly through your hair, using your fingers or a brush to distribute the gel. You can always add more if needed, but it can be difficult to remove excess gel once it has been applied.In addition to experimenting with different amounts of gel, you should also try out different application techniques. For a slicked-back, wet look, apply the gel to wet hair and comb it back, using a fine-tooth comb to smooth out any bumps or flyaways. For a more natural, textured look, apply the gel to dry hair and scrunch it up with your fingers to create volume and definition.ConclusionBy considering your hair type and desired style, looking for quality ingredients, and experimenting with different amounts and techniques, you can choose the perfect hair styling gel for your needs. With the right gel, you can create a range of stylish, polished looks that will last all day. Regular use of hair styling gels can have negative effects on hair. It can affect sebum production, which keeps the scalp moist and holds the hair from the roots. Decreased sebum production can weaken hair roots and potentially lead to hair fall. 2. What is hair styling gel used for? Hair styling gel is a product designed to create movement and hold hair in place. It can be used to create various hairstyles, such as slicking hair back or taming flyaway pieces. It adds texture, body, and shine to the hair. 3. Is styling gel the same as curl gel? Styling gel and curl gel serve different purposes. Styling gel is used to hold hair in place, while curl gel is meant to define curls and keep them hydrated. Curl cream can also be used for a softer hold. 4. Should you use styling gel on wet or dry hair? It is recommended to apply styling gel to wet or damp hair. Hair is more malleable and cooperative right after a shower, especially if the hair is damp. Gel holds better and longer when applied to damp hair. 5. Is mousse better than gel? Whether mousse or gel is better depends on the desired look and the hair type. Mousse is typically used for voluminous, airy styles, while gel is used for more defined, structured looks. 6. Can you use too much styling gel? Using too much styling gel can lead to hair becoming greasy, weighed down, and brittle. It can also cause scalp irritation and dandruff. 7. How often should you use styling gel? Styling gel can be used daily, but it's important to take breaks from using it to allow your hair to breathe, and keeping product in the hair constantly can have negative effects on its health. 7. What is better for curls, mousse or gel? Whether to use mousse or gel for curls depends on the desired curly hairstyle. For a natural, loose, and airy look, mousse is recommended. For a sleek and defined style, gel is a better option. 8. Do you put mousse or gel first? If using both mousse and gel, it is best to start with the mousse before applying the gel. The gel hardens after application, so starting with the lighter mousse provides a better base. Add a small amount of gel afterward for firm hold and sculpting, as needed. Editor's Notes During our hair styling gel research, we found 48 hair styling gel products and shortlisted 10 quality products. We collected and analyzed 504,686 customer reviews through our big data system to write the hair styling gels list. We found that most customers choose hair styling gels with an average price of \$13.47. The hair styling gels are available for purchase. We have researched hundreds of brands and picked the top brands of hair styling gels, including Garnier, Go2B, Biologie, AMERICAN CREW, SheaMoisture. The seller of top 1 product has received honest feedback from 385 consumers with an average rating of 4.7. The best hair gel is going to give you the most hold with versatility, says pro hairstylist Mideyah Parker. Meaning you can use it in the foundation of the hairstyle to create the look you're going for, or you can use it at the end as a finishing touch to secure out of place hair. From defining curls to sweeping hair into a sleek low bun, there are many looks to choose from that will work for you. Ahead, everything you need to know about these stylerstylers according to celebrity hairstylits, including how to apply the best products to shop.Vouges Favorite Hair GelsThis StoryBest Shold: R-Co Motorcycle Flexible GelR-CoWhy We Love It: According to hair stylist Rogero Cavalcante, R-Cos flexible gel combines hold with conditioning, making it ideal for styles that need texture without sacrificing