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HAIR DRAMA

coif crisis—solved!



TAKE IT DOWN
Hair pro Dawn Patten, CEO of Take It Down salon in Los Angeles, cares for the Natural hair of America's Next Top Model Cycle 9 contestant Ebony. Bianca (pre-dramatic makeover) gets tended to in the background.

If your hair problems have you dialing 911, consider the advice of hair expert Dawn Patton, CEO of Take It Down salon in Los Angeles. A go-to expert on haircare, taking down extensions and helping to repair hair, Patton helped to diagnose and treat the manes of the competitors on Cycle 9 of *America's Next Top Model*. Now the hair pro addresses some of your biggest hair trauma drama...

HAIR DRAMA:

My weave is causing my hair to break.

ANSWER: Even if you love long, flowing lengths, it's crucial to give your mane a rest. "People will take out their hair extensions and put them right back in. You've got to let your hair breathe," advises hair care expert Dawn Patton. She recommends waiting a week—or at least three to four days—before putting the weave back in. Visit your stylist regularly, every five or six weeks, to get your scalp treated, otherwise you run the risk of damaging the natural hair underneath the weave. "Make sure you get a really good scalp manipulation, like a head or a scalp massage to stimulate growth," explains Patton.

Breakage could also be caused by factors beyond just the weave. It's important to diagnosis the cause of the problem, says Patton. "Sometimes it's because you color your hair [too often], put relaxers on it too much," explains the hair pro. If you don't trek to the salon frequently for regular cuts, damaged ends could be affecting your whole mane. "Sometimes your hair splits all the way up to the top," explains the hair pro. Repeated use of heat styling tools can also cause the hair to break off. If you suffer from severe breakage or even alopecia, Patton advises visiting a doctor to see if there could be a medical reason behind the problem.



HAIR PARADISE
ANTM Cycle 9 contestant Ebony had hair that suffered from trauma, but a new weave, properly applied, completed her luxe makeover.

PHOTOS: PHOTOS COURTESY THE CW