

# Curl Pattern Classification Guide

*The Andre Walker hair-typing system, adapted for the chair — with the products and techniques each type actually needs.*

The Andre Walker hair-typing system, adapted for the chair — with the products and techniques each type actually needs.

## 1. THE TYPING SYSTEM

### TYPE 1 — STRAIGHT

- 1A: pin-straight, fine, hard to hold curl
- 1B: straight with body, medium density
- 1C: straight with slight bend, coarser strand

### TYPE 2 — WAVY

- 2A: loose tousled wave, easy to straighten
- 2B: defined S-wave, frizz-prone
- 2C: deep S-wave with some spirals, thick

### TYPE 3 — CURLY

- 3A: large loose curls, shiny, ringlet diameter ~chalk size
- 3B: bouncy ringlets, marker-sized spirals
- 3C: tight corkscrew curls, pencil-sized spirals, dense

### TYPE 4 — COILY

- 4A: tight S-shaped coils, defined
- 4B: Z-shaped coils, less defined, sharp angles
- 4C: tightly coiled, shrinkage up to 75%, fragile

## 2. POROSITY (THE OTHER HALF OF THE EQUATION)

Low porosity: cuticle tight, water beads on hair

- Needs: heat to open cuticle, lighter humectants
- Avoid: heavy butters that sit on top

Medium porosity: balanced, takes color predictably

- Needs: standard moisture/protein balance

High porosity: cuticle raised, absorbs and loses moisture fast

- Needs: protein, sealants, leave-ins
- Avoid: over-clarifying, sulfates

### **3. CUT METHOD BY TYPE**

- Type 2: standard wet cut, light layers
- Type 3A–3B: cut dry, in natural pattern, never wet-cut for one-length
- Type 3C–4: cut dry, curl by curl (Deva-style or Rezo) for pattern preservation

### **4. STYLE METHOD BY TYPE**

- Type 2: light mousse, scrunch + diffuse, plopping optional
- Type 3A: cream + gel cocktail, finger coil the front
- Type 3B–3C: gel cast then break cast, plop 20 min before diffusing
- Type 4A–4B: leave-in + cream + gel, finger coil or twist out
- Type 4C: shingling technique, finger coiling, regular protective styling

### **5. PRODUCT WEIGHT BY TYPE**

- Fine type 2: liquid leave-ins, light gels
- Medium type 3: cream-gel hybrids
- Coarse type 4: butters, custards, heavy creams

### **6. RED FLAGS**

- Limp wet-set on type 3: usually over-conditioning, clarify and reset
- Frizz halo on type 2: usually under-product, add gel
- Loss of pattern on color-treated curls: porosity too high, run protein for 4 weeks before next color
- Breakage at occipital on type 4: pillowcase, satin bonnet, looser ponytails