

How to Dye Your Beard White at Home – A Step-By-Step Guide

My older brother Jim has looked like Cosmos Kramer all his life. In fact, his impressions of Kramer from Seinfeld were a real hoot at family gatherings. So, you can imagine my surprise when Jim made an appearance at a family wedding last week looking like one of those 50 something aristocrats who smoke only Cuban cigars and drink single malt whiskey from Italian made crystal. The guy stole the groom's thunder in a black tux, black bow and a white beard.

I think the white beard first caught everyone's fancy when George Clooney made [this appearance](#) at a commercial shoot in September last year. While everyone was swooning over Clooney, actors like Joaquin Phoenix and Robert Di Nero too [embraced](#) the gray in their beards. Looking at their pictures, I feel that while the white beard establishes a man's age i.e. it pegs it at a certain number, the beard also makes his acceptance of age seem very secure, disarming and irresistible.

PERMANENTLY WHITE OR FUN SANTA CLAUSE WHITE

Since the wedding, I have been itching to try a white beard look myself. My hipster beard is generously peppered with grey, but I am worried that going completely white may add years to my face. On the other hand, I am curious to know what I would look like in ten, maybe fifteen years from now. So, I did some research and found out that there are temporary and permanent ways to dye your beard.

Now, Permanent does not mean forever but, depending on the method, the color will be locked in for anywhere between 2 weeks to 2 months.

I am more inclined to a permanently colored beard because it reduces the hassle of coloring it every day. Having said that, I am also hesitant to dye my beard white and regret my appearance for the next two months.

So, after a lot of deliberation, I have decided to experiment with a temporary solution. What with Christmas coming up soon, I can just be Santa for one day this year and become my nephew's favorite uncle if not the disarming distinguished gentleman I had on mind.

Whether you want a permanent color on your beard or a temporary color, keep reading on because everything you want to know about beard dyeing is right here.

HOW CAN YOU COLOUR YOUR BEARD AT HOME?

If you are intent on saving time and money by coloring your beard at home, then the process may seem tricky at first, but you will soon get used to it. To start with, I have made a Checklist so that you can get all the necessary tools required for a home makeover.

A Checklist For D-I-Y Beard Dyeing

If you have never dyed your beard before, then pay attention. There are some essential items that you need to buy:

- **Rubber Gloves**
You would have noticed that Hair stylists always wear gloves when applying hair color. Permanent Hair color often contains the chemical Paraphenylenediamine (PPD) which as per an article published on [sciencedirect.com](https://www.sciencedirect.com) fastens up the process of dyeing as compared to traditional Henna. However, it may also cause an allergic reaction. So, wear gloves!
- **Disposable Towels**
Have a bunch of disposable towels handy, because for reasons given above, the dye should not come in direct contact with your skin. If you stain your skin, just wipe it away with a towel. If the stain persists, use a nail polish remover.
- **Small dish**
The dish will be used to mix the dye with the developer. I will share more information what a developer is later in the article.
- **Vaseline**
A novel way to prevent dye from staining your skin is to apply Vaseline to your face before you start dyeing your beard. An Over-the-counter Vaseline jelly should work just fine.
- **Applicator**
An applicator is a brush which is used to paint your beard with dye. As mentioned earlier, dyes may lead to allergic reactions if they come in direct contact with your skin, so an applicator is necessary. Generally, hair dyes come with their own applicators. However, if your box is missing one, you can use a trimmed toothbrush as well.

PRO TIP: A quick way to get all these items in one go is to buy a [hair color kit from Amazon](#).

Can You Use Hair Dye on Your Beard?

Well, you could, but you have to understand that scalp hair color will be very harsh on facial skin. You will have to take special care to not leave any dye accidentally on your skin or it might cause tingling, itching, allergies and redness.

Also, beard hair is thicker than scalp hair and so much coarser, that it calls for a special dye. Not to forget that your beard gets washed more often than regular scalp hair so a more long-lasting product will be needed to keep up with the rinsing and the shampooing.

Take the Patch Test

I would suggest that you start with a 48-hour patch test on your inner elbow to check for allergic reactions. The inner elbow is a good place to test for allergies because

you would rather have a reaction on your elbow rather than your facial skin or near your eyes. Another good place, closer to the scalp, is behind the ear. Just take a dab of the dye and place it on your elbow or behind the ear. Do not wash it for 48 hours.

The [allergic reaction](#) mostly entails a burning sensation, swelling, itching or an angry red rash. If you notice any of these reactions, then do not use this dye.

The allergy happens mostly due to the presence of the chemical Paraphenylenediamine in the dye. However, there is nothing to fear so long as you take the patch test.

Should You Wash Your Beard Before Coloring It?

According to [L'orealparisusa.com](http://Lorealparisusa.com), a hair dye should be applied to dry hair. However, if you want to remove the build-up of beard products and dirt, you can wash your beard a night before dyeing it.

Some Beard shampoos that you can use prior to coloring your beard:

[THE REAL MAN All New Beard Wash & Conditioner](#)

[Beard Roar XL](#)

[Billy Jealousy Beard Wash Hydrating Mens Beard Shampoo](#)

PRO TIP: Skip washing your face on the day of the makeover, so that your beard hair retains natural oil which will create an organic protective layer against the harsh dye.

Face Prep Before Application of Permanent Dye

Before dyeing the beard, it is imperative that you apply Vaseline on the exposed skin surrounding the beard. This will prevent the dye from smudging your skin and staining it. Do not apply Vaseline on your beard or your beard hair will not lock the color.

You can buy [Vaseline petroleum jelly on amazon](#) if you are too lazy to go to a drugstore.

PRO TIP: If the stain persists, use a nail polish remover

Dyeing Your Beard Permanently White in Three Easy Steps

Once you have protected your exposed skin with Vaseline, it is time to dye the beard which can be done in Three easy steps.

Step 1. Take the dish and mix the hair dye and developer in the proportion stated on the box. A hair developer is basically hydrogen peroxide that opens the hair cuticles and lets the dye deposit on your hair. It is very important that you neither use too much or too little of the developer. The LA Based uglyducklingcolor.com states that adding too much developer would make the mix wet and runny which will lighten the hair and make it lose color quickly. On the other hand, if you use less developer, the hair cuticles will not open nicely. So, please follow the instructions on the packaging.

Once the mix is ready, dip the applicator in the mix and apply it on your beard. Be sure to color all the hair or you will end up with uneven coverage.

Step 2. Now that the dye has been applied, let it sit for 20-40 minutes or follow the time limit given on the dye packaging. To make certain that the color has set properly, you can remove a small patch of color from the beard after 20 minutes and check how it looks. If the color hasn't deposited properly, you can let it sit for another 20 minutes.

Step 3. Rinse the beard with cool or lukewarm water and pat the beard dry with towels. If you shampoo your beard after a few hours, do remember to use a color-protect shampoo (Yes, even when you have dyed your hair white)

MAINTAINING YOUR HAIRY LABOUR OF LOVE

If you thought that your work was over with dyeing the beard, then you couldn't be more wrong. Now that you have colored your beard, it demands a carefully set daily routine. Basically, if you want to achieve that distinguished gentlemanly look, you will have got to bring in a little TLC in your grooming routine.

I had mentioned earlier that it is necessary to invest in a **color-protect shampoo**. Get rid of the 3-in-1 Body wash, shampoo and conditioner in your bathroom cabinet as it would strip the sebum oil off your beard and make it lose color and moisture. Even when you color your beard white, it is essential to use a shampoo for color treated hair.

A few products, easily found on Amazon.com, are recommended:

[Loreal Professionnel Serie Expert Vitamino Color A-OX Shampoo](#)

[AVEDA Color Conserve Shampoo](#)

[Marcia Teixeira Keratin Shampoo - Color Treated Hair](#)

[Pureology Smooth Perfection Shampoo](#)

[ColorProof ClearItUp Detox Shampoo](#)

Next, a **beard oil** should become an integral part of your daily beard care routine. In the early days after dyeing your hair, you might need to apply oil twice every day to keep off the dryness. Soon, your beard will become soft, fragrant and easier to tame. The oil will also prevent beard dandruff. (Yes, that's a thing) and stop the skin from flaking. There are many good quality beard oils available on Amazon:

[Grave Before Shave Beard Oil \(Bay Rum Scent\)](#)

[GIBS Grooming Beard Oil Conditioner](#)

[GIBS Grooming Alpha Male Beard, Hair & Tattoo Oil](#) (This one comes in a funky skull shaped bottle)

If your hair and the skin beneath it still feels dry, then you might want to apply a good **beard balm** as well. Generally, the beard balm is used on medium to long beards. The balm not only acts like a leave-in conditioner, but it also helps in taming unruly hair and adding volume to the beard. There are several balms out there but if you are looking for a balm with organic ingredients, then I would suggest [Honest Amish Heavy Duty Beard Balm](#).

If the dryness reaches a peak point, then feel free to use both the balm and the oil together to give your skin some extra moisture and TLC.

You can also invest in a **Grooming kit**; these two products are recommended:

[Maison Lambert Ultimate Beard Kit](#)

[Beard and Bates](#)

OTHER PERMANENT METHODS OF DYING BEARD WHITE

- **Bleaching with Bleaching Powder and Developer**

You could bleach your beard hair to make it white but be warned that it may look more yellow or blonde than white if applied only once. The ideal thing to do is to bleach it in two or maybe three sessions with at least 2-3 weeks between each session.

A major drawback, as I see, to using bleach is that it is harsh, and the bleach can actually cause your facial hair to fall out. Also, if you have a shorter beard then you may need several touch-ups as the beard grows, which means that you will be exposing your skin to the bleach several times.

However, if you still want to bleach your beard, you might as well buy a bleach kit on Amazon. A bleach kit would normally contain bleaching powder and a developer. You would need to follow the same checklist and steps as we did for dyeing the

beard permanently. There are plenty of bleach kits on Amazon, these two are recommended:

[Jerome Russell Bright Bleaching Lightening Hair for Punky Color](#)

[Schwarzkopf BlondMe Premium Lightener](#)

PRO TIP: To do away completely with the yellow tint after bleaching, use a toner.

- **Bleaching with Hydrogen Peroxide (H2O2)**

Did you know that the great Marilyn Munroe achieved her signature blonde look with peroxide!

Most households stock Hydrogen Peroxide (H2O2) for a variety of purposes right from using it as an antiseptic to mixing it with Vinegar to form an all-purpose cleaner. Lately, during the pandemic, people have also been using Hydrogen Peroxide to clean vegetables.

Now, Hydrogen Peroxide may masquerade as a harmless domesticated chemical but it's a different ball game to use it on your face or scalp hair. Unfortunately, Hydrogen Peroxide (H2O2) can easily cause skin irritation and burns if it stays in contact with skin for very long. It is not used as is on your face but diluted with water to reduce the harshness of the product.

There are two ways to use this household cleansing ingredient to dye your beard hair, however, the prep is more or less the same as using a permanent dye.

Do's While Using H2O2

- Patch Test to check for allergies
- Shampoo beard before bleaching it
- Apply bleach on damp hair
- Wear gloves and use an applicator to apply the bleach

Don'ts While Using H2O2

- Don't use leave-in conditioner on your beard right before bleaching it
- Don't use any metal containers to make the mix, use plastic or ceramic spoons and dishes

Using Hydrogen Peroxide with Baking Soda to lighten Beard

So why must we mix Baking Soda with Hydrogen peroxide? According to [healthline.com](https://www.healthline.com), Baking Soda is an alkaline (it has a pH level greater than 7), which

when used with H₂O₂, opens the hair cuticles to allow the peroxide to enter the hair cortex easily. Moreover, when mixed with Peroxide, the baking soda helps in breaking down the melanin in your hair.

The process is simple after you have carefully read the Dos and Don'ts given above.

- Take a dish and add one cup of baking soda to it. Put 3 spoons of Hydrogen Peroxide over it and allow it to form a paste
- Use a brush applicator to coat your beard
- Let the paste sit in your beard for 30-60 minutes
- Remove the paste with cold water and use a [good quality hair conditioner](#).
- Let the beard air dry, do not use a hairdryer
- Repeat the process every alternate day till your beard becomes a desired shade of white

Using Hydrogen Peroxide without Baking Soda to lighten Beard

- After conducting a patch test, fill a spray bottle with equal parts 3% Hydrogen and equal parts water
- Spray the mix on your beard and let it sit for 30-40 minutes
- The hydrogen peroxide decomposes faster if you sit in the sun for 10 minutes
- Repeat this exercise on alternate days till your hair lightens considerably

HOW TO TEMPORARILY DYE YOUR BEARD WHITE?

If like me, you just want to know what the years ahead have instore for you, then you can apply a temporary hair dye. These tips, which I will be laying out for you, will come in handy if you are dressing up as Santa for Christmas or playing Gandalf to a costume party.

Using White Hair Wax to Dye Beard White

Amazon has several options for white hair wax. As these are temporary, their application is fairly simple.

- Blow Dry your hair
- Squeeze a good amount of wax onto your palm. Use your fingers to apply the product on your hair. Repeat several times till the color is evenly spread. If your hair gets hard, then add a little water and brush out the extra wax
- To wash out the wax, use warm water.

Recommended Products:

[Mofajang](#)

[Volluck](#)

Using White Hair Spray To Dye Beard White

- Shake well before use
- Hold the can at least 6 inches away from your face and spray. Even better would be to get a friend to help.
- Comb your beard and let it dry
- When washing away the hair spray, shampoo with warm water. Shampoo twice if required.

Recommend Products:

[Jerome Russell B Wild](#)

[High Beams Intense Temporary Spray-On Hair Color - Wicked White](#)

Using Temporary Hair Dye to Dye Beard White

- The hair dye can be deposited in the hair using a paintbrush or a sponge
- Once the dye starts drying, it will become darker. If not satisfied with the color, apply a second or third coat.
- To remove the dye, wash it with regular shampoo and water.

Recommended Products:

[Mehron Makeup Hair White](#)

[Keracolor Clenditioner Hair Dye](#)

Using White Mascara to Dye Beard White

Yes, you read that right. The mascara is easy enough to apply. However, you may have to order 2-3 sticks for complete coverage of your beard.

Recommended Products:

[Bloody Mary Mascara](#)

SHOULD YOU DYE YOUR EYEBROWS TO MATCH THE COLOR OF YOUR BEARD?

On a related note, as we are discussing dyeing a part of the face white, should you dye your eyebrows and hair white too? I would say this is a judgement call. While my friend George Clooney wears an all grey look with aplomb, there is always a chance that I might end up looking like a very slim Santa Clause. Of course, if I am dressing up like Santa Claus, I would dye my scalp hair and eyebrow white temporarily for that snowy fluffy look.

All said and done, I do feel that dyeing your eyebrows two shades lighter would be more soothing to the eyes and give your face greater symmetry. Going all grey may make you look older while contrasting shades all over your face may look unnatural so dyeing your hair a few shades lighter is your best bet.

CLOSING THOUGHTS

If you and George Clooney went to school in the same decade and if you are spotting more gray than black in your beard, then maybe it is time to take the plunge. I would recommend permanent hair dye; the application is easy with fewer side-effects. Perhaps, you can go white around a time when you are not expected to attend any social events or important business meetings, so that if you don't like your appearance, you can go back to your original salt and pepper look.

However, if you are dressing up as Santa to please your nephews and nieces, then go all out and have a blast. My temporary dye solution this Christmas is going to be a nice white hair wax. Tell me in the comments below, what would be your choice to go HO HO HO this December.

Before you go, take this short poll to tell us if you use a special beard shampoo or a regular hair shampoo for your luscious beard.

<Poll Option One>. <Beard Shampoo>

<Poll Option Two> <Regular Shampoo>

