

# On test

This month, we're testing hairsprays, smoothing conditioners, shampoos for blonde hair and clip-in fringes.

## Smoothing conditioners

Make things go a little smoother

Alterna Bamboo Smooth Anti-Frizz Conditioner, £17

★★★★★

This conditioner looks and smells lovely and gave me shiny, smooth, moisturised hair. The packaging is quite unusual and made it almost look eco-friendly. Even though it's the most expensive of all the conditioners I have tested, I would definitely buy it in the future because it gives outstanding results!

Herbal Essences Soft & Smooth Sumptuous Smooth Conditioner, £2.79

★★★

A lovely cheap and cheerful buy that brightened up my bathroom shelf. For the price this gave good results and it also smelled fruity, thanks to the mandarin extracts. I would use it occasionally, but I think some of the other products left my hair in better condition.

Pantene Pro-V 2 Min Colour Damage Rescue Conditioner, £4.49

★★★

This smells lovely and left my mane shiny and smooth, so I was happy with the results, but my hair did feel a bit flyaway compared to when I used some of the others. Overall, this is a fairly good budget buy that does what it says on the box!

Matrix Biolage Deep Smoothing Conditioner, £9.95

★★★★★

The packaging is simple, but it looks quite luxurious and I liked the big tube - as it felt like the product would last quite a long time. It gave really good results and I was pleased with how my hair looked and felt after using it a few times. I would definitely use it again, as it's also pretty good value for a salon professional conditioner. A close second!

Winner!



**Tip!** Before applying conditioner, squeeze all of the excess water out of your hair to ensure it penetrates properly and gets the best results.

# Meet our panel



**Kirsty**  
**HAIR TYPE:**  
 Midi, coloured, fine  
**TESTING:**  
 Clip-in fringes



**Stuart**  
 Owner of Stuart  
 Holmes Hair &  
 Beauty Spa  
**HAIR TYPE:**  
 Various clients  
**TESTING:**  
 Weatherproof  
 hairsprays



**Rebecca**  
**HAIR TYPE:**  
 Long,  
 coloured, fine  
**TESTING:**  
 Shampoos for  
 blondes



**Jenny**  
**HAIR TYPE:**  
 Midi, coloured,  
 thick  
**TESTING:**  
 Smoothing  
 conditioners

# Clip-in fringes

## For fringe commitment-phobes

Balmain Clip-in Fringe,  
 £16.95  
 ★★★★★

This is a good clip-in fringe and the hair was definitely the nicest quality out of all three; feeling a lot softer and silkier than the others. This fringe is the choice of top hairdressers and was used on the catwalk at London Fashion Week this year. The result it gives is a longer fringe that didn't work as well for my face shape, but it was still good quality, easy-to-use and would certainly look amazing if you have a long or heart-shaped face!



Sleek Hair Couture Clip-in,  
 Starts from £7  
 ★★★★★

This is a synthetic hair fringe and normally I would avoid wearing synthetic extensions, but this was a really good fit for my hair type and cut. It was also a really good colour match for my shade and an excellent budget buy to completely change your look for a night out. I found the fringe looked most 'realistic' when I put my hair up into a topknot, as it had longer bits on the side, which helped it 'fit' into my hair better.



Frankie Essex Hair Clip-in Fringe, £14.99  
 ★★★

While this wasn't awful, I didn't like it as much as the other two I tested, as the hair didn't feel as nice and the colour wasn't a very natural blonde, so it was a really bad colour match for me. It was easy to apply and could work well for some people, but on me it looked like I was walking around with a pretend fringe stuck on my head - which I was, but no-one was supposed to know that!



**Tip!** Keep your clip-in fringe in tip-top condition by regularly brushing it with a bristle brush.

# Weatherproof Hairsprays

Hold that style!

Sebastian Shaper Fierce, £15

★★★★★

A great mist of spray which gave a strong hold and body. An amazing product for hair-up rather than everyday use.

However if you need something extra strong in bad weather conditions this is the right hair spray, as it doesn't budge! My only criticism is that it left the hair a little gritty for my liking.

Philip Kingsley Weatherproof Hairspray, £16

★★★★

Great to use on wavy/curly hair as this weatherproof spray is very wet because it's not an aerosol. It takes a long time to dry and when it does, it gives a firm hold and a hard finish. It's a good product to scrunch into the hair.

L'Oréal Paris Elnett Satin So Slick, £3.79

★★★

This is a light hairspray that disappears at the stroke of a brush, yet still holds the hair very well. I couldn't feel the product in the hair, yet it was still doing its job. I would use it day-to-day, but not on a wet and windy day!

**Tip! Spritz hairspray onto your locks during the process of styling, rather than just spraying on after the style has been created - as this will help to give more hold.**

Shu Uemura Art of Hair Sheer Lacquer, £22

★★★★★

My favourite of all the reviewed hairsprays. It has a very light hold and feels weightless in the hair. This luxury product also adds a lot of shine and gives great protection against moisture in the atmosphere.

For a stronger hold in bad weather you could always layer this up.



Joint winner!



Joint winner!



# Shampoos for blondes

Keep that mane shining on!

Tigi Catwalk Fashionista Violet Shampoo, £11.25

★★★★

I loved the chic packaging of this shampoo – and in terms of how it looked on the bathroom shelf, it was definitely my favourite out of all of them. The shampoo was very good and left my hair looking shiny and a lovely colour. This was a good contender for the top spot, but not quite the winner.

Joico Color Endure Violet Shampoo, £12.95

★★★★

I've used other Joico products in the past and have loved them, so I was really excited about using this, but I found it wasn't as moisturising as some of the others and didn't find it to be 'anything special'. It certainly wasn't awful and my hair looked nice after I used it, but it needed a lot of conditioner and I didn't find that my blonde looked quite as good as with some of the others.

John Frieda Sheer Blonde Everlasting Blonde Colour Preserving Shampoo, £5.89

★★★★★

This is a classic that's been around for years, so I'd used some of the John Frieda blonde shampoos before. I really loved this particular product, as it lathered nicely and left my hair smooth, shiny and above all, the blonde colour looked great. While the bottle doesn't have the glam-factor of some of the others, the price point is much more reasonable – and I do love a good hair bargain! I would definitely buy this product again.

**Tip!** Use one of these shampoos two to three times a week to keep your blonde bright 'n' breezy.

Unite Blonda Toning Shampoo, £15.75

★★★★★

This one was the most expensive and when I first saw the packaging I thought it looked really bland and boring, but when I used it on my hair I was very impressed. My locks had been looking a little yellowy, but this helped to give them a slightly more ice-blond colour, which I was really happy about. I would definitely buy this shampoo again. It goes to show you shouldn't judge a shampoo by its bottle.

