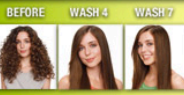


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Top Mousses for Curly Hair

Oct 11, 2011 / By Tricia Chaves

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Confection-like and luscious, styling mousse has earned itself a bad rep for leaving hair controlled, yet crispier than peanut brittle. Accordingly, many stylists have thrown the word "mousse" right out of their arsenal: "As far as mousse goes, I haven't heard that word outside of a dessert menu in ages. So I recommend ... chocolate," quipped Jeff Noble, owner of Bouffant Daddy, a St. Louis salon. But fear not, fluff-lover. Hair mousse is alive and well, with a modern makeover that kicks crunch to the curb. Plenty of hair experts have found their favorites, and now you can, too.

Bumble and Bumble

Curly haired clients who visit Monica Flatequal at Detour Salon in Encinitas, California, get the all-star treatment with Bumble and Bumble (bumbleandbumble.com) styling products. Each of the formulations is intended for a different curl texture, but Flatequal often custom blends products to achieve the perfect mix of hold and softening action. The Holding Foam is ideal for medium to thick hair with any kind of curl pattern. The result is a durable, flexible hold that won't leave the hair one bit stiff.

DevaCurl

Rebecca Haehnle, owner of DC's Parlour Salon, reaches for DevaCurl Frizz-Free Volumizing Foam (mydevacurl.com) because it provides a light to medium hold without stickiness or stiffness. The non-aerosol mousse is gentle -- it's alcohol-free and enhanced with sunflower, hops and lemongrass to nourish the hair while preventing frizz. Mousse is the third step in the line's three-part system that includes cleanser, conditioners and other curl-friendly styling products. The manufacturer recommends the foam for all types of curls, from wavy to corkscrew.

Eufora

When choosing a mousse, Amy Bush, owner of Ambushed – A Curly Hair Salon in Columbus, Ohio, prefers propane-free Formation Whipped Styling Solution by Eufora (eufora.net). The mousse offers the benefits of a leave-in conditioner without the addition of alcohol, a common ingredient in traditional mousses. Bush says she applies the product, then diffuses the hair for a soft finish with body and hold. The mousse is easily layered with other products to achieve your desired texture, says Bush. For example, apply over leave-in conditioner for added softness or use with spray gel for more hold.

SoftSheen-Carson

Shannon King, director of education at New York City-based SoftSheen-Carson (softsheen-carson.com) offers some tips for mixing up the perfect whipped curl concoction: Wave Nouveau Revitalizing Mousse provides a light to medium hold and dries to a crunch-free finish. Use the dynamic duo of Roots of Nature Butter whip coil cream and Feather Whipped curl cream along with your mousse to give control to the curl plus moisture and definition. The products are whipped with nourishing botanicals such as mango oil and cupuacu butter to soothe the hair into perfect ringlets.