

→ wavy

■ GO-TO STYLERS

Texturizing spray, mousse, and curl cream amp up waves without adding weight.

■ TUCK TO SET

To set waves in a face-framing shape, tuck or pin damp hair behind your ears after applying your product. "That little looping action behind the ear creates the most complimentary indentation once your hair dries," Vercher says.

■ MAKE A TOPKNOT

For longer lengths, apply a texturizing spray or cream to damp hair and put it up in a topknot until hair is about 75 percent dry. Remember, "The tighter your topknot, the tighter your waves will be," he says.

■ SLEEP ON IT

Ouidad brand ambassador Irinel de León suggests a technique called Medusa clipping to preserve and protect waves overnight: Using small claw clips, twirl sections around your finger and loosely clip them to the crown of your head. "It's gentler than a high pony and won't disrupt the wave pattern," she says.

→ curly

■ GO-TO STYLERS

Cream and oil impart hydration; gel delivers definition to curls and ringlets.

■ STYLE WHILE WET

Hair should be fully wet when you apply cream and/or gel—as in, you may want to style *in* the shower to contain drips. "Textured hair loves water and moisture, so you want to be sure you are creating the best base possible to get the best finish," de León says.

■ SHINGLE TRICK

Great for those with thicker, coarser curls or who prefer wash-and-go styles, the shingling method creates separation and definition. Once wet hair is detangled, rake curl cream or gel through hair. Make a scissorlike shape with your index finger and middle finger, then glide them down small sections of hair, pushing product in.

■ PUT A PIN IN IT

Curly hair often has different texture patterns (like tighter at the crown, looser around the face). Once hair is 75 percent dry, add a dab of gel to loose curls, twirl them around your finger, and secure with bobby pins; set until dry.

→ coily

■ GO-TO STYLERS

Oil, curl cream, and curl pudding nourish and elongate a tight, dense texture.

■ LAYER IT ON

For maximum moisture retention, try layering on a lotion or leave-in conditioner, following with oil, and finishing with a cream or custard (a technique called the LOC method).

■ DO THE TWIST

Shampoo and condition, then apply oil and/or curl custard while hair is still wet, says Vercher. Separate hair into sections; the larger they are, the looser the texture will be. Divide each section in half and twist the two sections from roots to ends, allowing them to air-dry before unraveling.

■ STRETCH OUT

Coils experience shrinkage, spiraling up tightly and making hair appear shorter than it is. Vercher's elongating advice: Apply cream or oil to sections by gently pulling at the roots (to add some tension) and smoothing it down hair shafts from roots to ends. Then twirl the tips around your finger with a little more product. ■



* CURL-APPROVED PICKS

- 1 TRESemmé One Step Wave Styler, \$6; [target.com](https://www.target.com)
- 2 Ouidad Curl Shaper Take Shape Plumping + Defining Cream, \$26; [ouidad.com](https://www.ouidad.com)
- 3 Garnier Fructis Curl Multi-Use Oil, \$6; [garnierusa.com](https://www.garnierusa.com)
- 4 OGX Locking + Coconut Curls Decadent Creamy Mousse, \$7; [target.com](https://www.target.com)
- 5 Pattern Curl Gel, \$25; [sephora.com](https://www.sephora.com)
- 6 SheaMoisture Red Palm Oil & Cocoa Butter Curl Stretch Pudding, \$14; [walmart.com](https://www.walmart.com)

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