



Sun Dried

and let solar power do your hair. **Unplug that blow-dryer. Step outside**
 BY ANDREA DAWN CLARK

AS A KID I HATED HAVING MY hair blow-dried—each minute under that blast of heat seemed long, hot, and torturous. Out of exhaustion my mother occasionally sent me outside with two wet braids trailing down my back. This was a treat for me—inhaling the aroma of coconut conditioner while the sun slowly dried my damp plaits. Now when the weather turns warm, I still like to dry my hair outdoors, skipping the tedious blow-drying session and walking to work in the bright morning sun: I'm not the only one who enjoys

this liberating summer ritual. "When Oprah goes on vacation, she loves to let her hair dry naturally," says Andre Walker, Oprah's hairstylist, who has won six Emmys for his work on the show. "I smooth in a mixture of rich body lotion and styling gel—the lotion is a great deep conditioner that makes her hair feel soft and look shiny, and the gel adds a little control." (Walker likes to use Kiehl's Creme de Corps and Philip B. styling gel.) One sunny day, why not abandon your blow-dryer and go natural? On the next page—how to do it without sacrificing style. ➤

1. WHILE IN THE SHOWER, massage a rich conditioner into your hair. Use a moisturizing formula if your hair is curly and a volumizing product if your hair tends to be straight. (If you color your hair, choose a conditioner with sunscreen.) Evenly distribute the treatment with a wide-tooth comb, like a Jāneke natural wood comb (below).

2. FOR A SMOOTH FINISH, wring your hair with a superabsorbent microfiber towel, such as an Aquis waffle-weave towel (below), or lightly blot with a low-pile cotton towel to enhance curls. "Curls require lots of moisture—just the opposite of smooth, straight styles—in fact, if your hair is really thick and wavy, it's best to completely drip-dry," says New York City stylist Mark Garrison. For added hydration, spritz your curls with a leave-in conditioner, such as Revlon Dual-Phase styling conditioner.



3. MIX UP A CUSTOM STYLING COCKTAIL to add control and create a subtle but wonderful aroma for your outdoor drying session. If your hair is curly, scrunch in a combination of gel and cream to enhance and moisturize the ringlets (try Clinique Defined Curls gel with green tea extract and Kusco-Murphy lavender hair cream). If your hair is slightly wavy, finger in a thick styling cream (such as Philip B. Creme of the Crop with vanilla essence), then smooth the hair flat against your scalp with a boar-bristle brush or a fine-tooth comb. If your hair is naturally stick-straight, comb in a lightweight shine enhancer (like Robert Kree Shine finishing serum with geranium oil) for a glossy finish.

4. DO SOMETHING DELICIOUS with your new morning downtime—take a walk, eat breakfast outdoors (or at least by a sunny open window), drive to work with the top down and your shades on (like these titanium sunglasses by Christian Roth). You won't miss your blow-dryer one bit. For details see Shop Guide.