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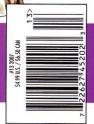
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TRESSRX ASK THE HAIR DOCTOR

By Karen Shelton • HairBoutique.com

Photos Allen Edwards Salon & Spas (Brentwood, Studio City & Woodland Hills, CA); Stylist: Allen Edwards

I have been thinking of cutting my hair short, but am a little nervous. Can you give me some benefits of going short? I think I need a pep talk! —Renee, Austin, TX

Short hair cuts can offer so many great advantages! Here are just a few...

1. Offers an instant image change.

One of the reasons that makeover shows like to cut hair from long or medium to short is because it does make a huge difference and shows instant results. Whether this is always a good thing or not, the bottom line is that it does show a dramatic change.

2. Hair is the latest accessory.

It used to be that when you cut your hair short, you had to live with the



results for a long time. The idea of cutting in haste and repenting in leisure was definitely true.

As the current throng of celebrities have proven, this is no longer the case. Eva Longoria changed her hairstyle eight times during the ALMA Awards broadcast, with the help of Celebrity stylist Ken Paves and eight wigs.

Jessica Simpson currently has chinlength hair. However, you will probably rarely see the beautiful celebrity with the same hairstyle more than once. This is because her hairdresser Ken Paves is the king of creating the latest hair looks on Jessica.

Short hair can instantly be transformed with add-on hair such as ponytails, braids or falls. Half wigs and wigs are also very popular and can instantly transform short hair to long (check out Ken and Jessica's super easy-to-use HairDo extensions at HairBoutique.com).

Hair accessories have also come light years in sophistication. Headbands are very chic and the options are endless from the inexpensive to the couture quality. The latest bandeaus, scarf headbands and elastic bands can instantly whip a rebellious short 'do into shape (shop HairBoutique.com for the hottest accessories).

3. Show off your great features.

Celebrity stylist Robert Hallowell once told me that one of the keys to success in Hollywood is to have a long lovely neck. I never really thought about that before but it's definitely true. While height helps, having a long and slender neck is important for TV and film work. One way that actresses accentuate their long necks is with short haircuts. A short style will instantly show off a beautiful neck, great ears or play up a gorgeous face.

4. Just tousle and go!

One of my own hair secrets is to wear heavily layered bangs that blend into my own tresses. You can wash, tousle and go with minimum fuss.

Of course there is one downside, short



hair requires more frequent trips to the hairdresser for maintenance. Even if you are growing out your short style, you will need to keep it trimmed and neat.

5. Make a personal statement.

How many people have you known that go through a serious romantic breakup and instantly change their hair? Cutting or completely altering your hair can definitely change your outlook. It can also make a personal statement.

As Robert once told me—some of his favorite celebrity clients may not be classic beauties, but they can wear any hairstyle and look fabulous because they have that special self-confidence that makes everything they do look amazing.

6. Dealing with damage.

It happens to many of us at some point in our lives. A chemical hair treatment fries our ends or the color never takes the way we had hoped. While there are many options to living with stressed tresses, sometimes the collateral damage is sky high. Going with a fresh new cut can often offer a brand new start and leave the high cost of maintaining a damaged 'do behind.

7. Following fashion trends.

Short hair popularity ebbs and flows like everything in the world of fashion. Opting for a short style that can be used as a canvas for experimenting with the latest colors or styles is always a great possibility. In fact, one of the reasons that models and celebrities keep their own tresses short is because it allows them to live through hair coloring and other styling challenges without any long term problems.