

Shower Be Gone!

Dry shampoo to the rescue!

MollyRakoczy

Since I was old enough to do my own pigtails, I have complained about my hair. It is thin, fine and breaks easily, but that will never change. Washing my hair is a chore and causes my highlights to fade. I will not even mention the time I waste drying and straightening my golden locks.

As I have grown and changed from pigtails to ponytails, I have come to discover that I don't have the time or energy to wash my hair every morning. As I began to appreciate sleeping in most mornings during the school week, I also discovered TRESemme's dry shampoo after a talk with my mom.

"So I was talking to Mrs. Wolf the other day and she told me one of her daughters uses this thing called dry shampoo. She just sprays it in her hair and doesn't have to wash it that day. Do you want me to pick some up for you?"

The first time I used dry shampoo, I'll admit I was a little nervous. What if it made my hair look dirtier? What if it weighs my thin, straight hair down? What if I hang out with friends and someone says my hair looks bad because of the dry shampoo?

I looked up some customer reviews on TRESemme's website and found their positive opinions reassuring. The only negative comment I saw stated that sometimes the nozzle on the spray bottle stops working, leaving half of the dry shampoo unattainable.

I read the directions to fully prepare myself for a dive into dry shampoo, cleverly named, "Fresh Start." "Shake can vigorously. Lightly spritz roots. Leave product on for one to two minutes. Brush through hair," I repeat to myself. I'm ready to begin.

I brushed my hair twice before leaving for work, just to be sure that my hair would stay clean-looking.

When I got home hours later, the first thing I did was check out my hair. It looked fine. After I brushed it again, I was ready to tackle the rest of the day's challenges.

Dry shampoo makes those mornings when I don't feel like washing my hair quick and easy. Instead of struggling to cover my entire head with a small headband, I

just spray my hair, brush it out and start my day. It's so useful that I can even go for a short run and not wash my hair after.

I love things that smell good, and dry shampoo's scent is even more pleasant than I expected. A light perfume-y fragrance with hints of floral makes me feel even cleaner. I used to be self-conscious of how I smell when I don't wash my hair, but no longer.

I recently got straight-across bangs. I became worried after I realized how quickly they'll look greasy when I wear them down. Once again, dry shampoo came to my rescue. I can wear my bangs down for two days, and on the third day, dry shampoo them, and they look clean again.

Dry shampoo, priced around \$5 for 5.7 ounces, makes my life much easier. It takes me 10 minutes to get ready when I have to do my hair, instead of the usual half hour when I wash it. The nozzle still works, giving me clean, fresh-smelling hair that lasts the whole day. Most importantly, it allows me an extra 20 minutes to sleep in every morning. All those things make my \$5 more than worth it. After all, what's not to love about a little more cleanliness and a little more time?

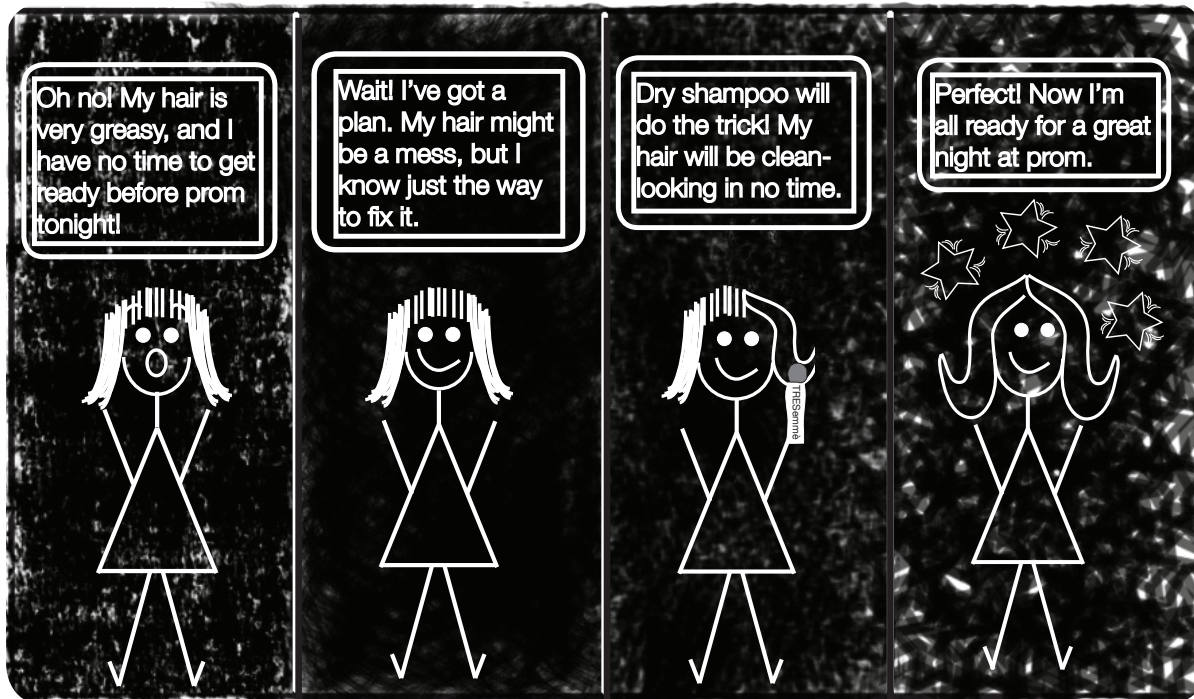


Illustration by MollyRakoczy

As SEEN on TV

Infomercial products are as addicting as their commercials

ErinReed

Imagine for a moment that a girl is sitting on her bed, papers littered around her, laptop in front of her, as she works vigorously to finish up a research paper that's due in two days. Biting her lip in concentration, her eyes are glued to the screen. A bead of sweat forms on her brow as her fingers abuse the keyboard. She's right in the middle of typing up her results when she hears it - the tune catches her attention immediately.

"Watching a show on TV in my Snuggie!" "Happy that my hands are free in my Snuggie!"

She lifts her head up to look at her TV and is met with the image of four people on the screen, two parents and their children, dressed in what appear to be backwards robes. She wants to look away, but this travesty of a commercial now has her undivided attention. Thirty agonizing seconds later, the commercial ends, and only one thought is running through her head. She has no idea what a Snuggie is, but she knows that she has to have it.

It's safe to say the Snuggie commercials are so bad that they're good, resulting in the purchase of the Snuggie itself. This, however, was not the case for sophomore Tara Huber. "I first heard of the Snuggie by commercial, but didn't really think about getting one," she said. "I think the commercials are kind of dumb. They didn't really convince me to get one."

Despite having no desire to get one, Huber ended up with a Snuggie anyway. "I got my Snuggie for

Christmas from my mom's boyfriend, actually. He got them for the whole family. I got a leopard print one," she said.

Even though she didn't want a Snuggie at first, now Huber adores it. "I love it! I use it all the time. It's the only blanket I ever use. It's really warm and easy to do anything in, like eating and doing homework. Sometimes I just walk around the house with it on all day. Good thing I got one for Christmas! I don't think I would have gotten one if I didn't, and I would have never known how much I would like it."

Junior Rachel Bormann is no stranger to the wonderful world of infomercial products either. Her personal indulgence comes in the form of the Magic Bullet, a simplistic blender that only requires one push of the hand. "It's very simple to use. All you have to do is pop the food in the plastic cup, put it on its base, press down and voilà! Your food is ready. The great thing is you can eat right out of the plastic cups since they have handles and rims," Bormann explained.

"My whole family uses it. It's great for smoothies, shakes and different pasta sauces. Plus, it chops vegetables into mince-like pieces, which is great," she said. "I constantly saw infomercials about it, and I was like, 'Wow, I wish I had one of those!'"

So how did she acquire this product of genius? Bormann's mother bought it for her when it was on sale at Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

There is a way to get infomercial products from somewhere other than the TV. In fact, there's a whole store dedicated to infomercial products in malls such as the Westroads and Oakview. The store is appropriately named "As Seen on TV."

"I personally think that the Magic Bullet is one of the greatest kitchen appliances ever invented, no joke. It's fast, simple and easy to use," Bormann said. One of the older products spawned from infomercial-land is Hairagami. Senior Alli Moran not only remembers it, but she owns it.

"Hairagami is a thing that holds your hair in a bun or any style without a pony tail holder. It's like origami for your hair," she laughed. "It looks like a snap-it bracelet, but you just straighten out this rod-like thing that has a soft layering around it, wrap your hair into it and snap it into place."

The potential complications with this product, such as hair tangling, didn't stir Moran one bit. "I saw it on a TV commercial and begged my mom for it until she got one for me," she said. Although Hairagami did its job, it lost its appeal. "It works, but now I think it's ugly. I never use it anymore."

Although Moran doesn't use the product anymore, she doesn't regret purchasing it. "It was only seven dollars. It's kind of cool that I bought something off TV, and I've never seen anyone else with one either," Moran said.

These are just three success stories involving infomercial products, but be warned. Infomercial products have a dark side. They're infamous for being glorified on TV and not living up to expectations in real life. It takes a special eye, and more importantly, self-control, to know what products to get and what products to leave in commercial land.