Quanzie Crown Wigs

Hair Education Series: Remy vs. Virgin vs. Raw Hair

Not all human hair is created the same.

Have you ever purchased a wig that felt soft and silky when it arrived, only to notice that it started tangling, becoming dry, or losing its original texture after a few washes? Or have you wondered why some human hair can be bleached to a light blonde, while other hair struggles to lift beyond warm brown?

The answer can depend on the hair's original condition, processing history, and care.

Welcome to Quanzie Crown Wigs, where we believe an educated customer is a confident customer.

Today, we're breaking down three terms you'll often hear in the hair industry: Remy, Virgin, and Raw hair. We'll explore what these terms mean, how chemical processing affects hair quality, and what to know before investing in your next wig.

Let's get into it.

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1. Understanding Remy Hair

Let's start with Remy hair.

Remy hair generally refers to human hair collected or arranged so that the cuticles face the same direction, from root to tip.

But what exactly are cuticles?

The cuticle is the outer protective layer of a hair strand. Think of it as tiny overlapping scales that help protect the inner structure of the hair.

When neighboring strands have their cuticles aligned in the same direction, there's less opportunity for the strands to catch against one another. This can help reduce tangling and contribute to a smoother hair experience.

However, cuticle alignment is only one part of hair quality. The hair's original condition, how it was collected, how it was handled, and any chemical processing it has undergone also matter.

And here's something important to understand:

Remy hair does not automatically mean the hair is virgin, chemically unprocessed, or guaranteed to have completely intact cuticles.

To understand why, we need to talk about chemical processing.

2. How Chemical Processing Affects Remy Hair

Although Remy hair is associated with aligned cuticles, some Remy hair may undergo additional chemical processing during manufacturing.

Certain treatments can damage, modify, or remove some of the hair's natural cuticle layer.

Why does this matter?

The cuticle serves as the hair strand's natural protective outer layer. When that layer is significantly damaged or removed, the hair may become more vulnerable to friction, tangling, dryness, and breakage.

Some manufacturers may also apply silicone or other coatings to make the hair feel softer, smoother, and shinier.

These coatings can improve the hair's initial appearance and feel. However, they may diminish with repeated washing, revealing the underlying condition of the hair.

This is one reason a wig can feel silky when it first arrives but perform differently after several washes.

However, not all Remy hair undergoes cuticle stripping, and not every smooth-feeling wig has been coated.

The takeaway is simple: Remy describes cuticle alignment, not a guarantee of chemical purity, cuticle integrity, or longevity.

That's why it's important to ask questions about how the hair was sourced and processed.

3. How Does Chemically Treated Remy Hair Respond to Bleaching?

Now, let's talk about something important: how does chemically treated Remy hair respond to bleaching?

Remember, Remy describes how the hair's cuticles are aligned. It does not tell you whether the hair was dyed, bleached, or otherwise processed before you got it.

If Remy hair has previously been dyed or bleached, lifting it again can be unpredictable.

Let's say you purchase dark brown or black Remy hair and want to turn it into a light blonde.

If the hair has been dyed dark, bleach may not immediately produce a blonde result. The hair may pass through red, reddish-orange, orange, and yellow stages as pigment is removed.

Previously bleached hair presents a different challenge.

Although some previously lightened hair may be lightened further, every additional bleaching session can increase the risk of dryness, breakage, and loss of elasticity.

If the hair has been heavily processed, it may become damaged before it reaches your desired shade.

So, how light can treated Remy hair lift?

There's no universal answer.

Some hair may reach a lighter brown or blonde, while other hair may not safely tolerate additional lightening. The outcome depends on the original hair color, the type of previous treatment, the hair's current condition, and the bleaching process.

Here's the important distinction:

Virgin hair has not undergone previous chemical color or texture treatments, while treated Remy hair may already have a chemical history that affects how it responds to bleach.

However, Remy hair is not automatically harder to bleach than virgin hair. Its actual processing history and condition matter more than the label.

Before bleaching a wig or bundle, have a professional assess the hair and perform a strand test.

Never assume that a wig can safely reach platinum blonde just because it's labeled Remy.

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4. Understanding Virgin Hair

Now, let's talk about Virgin hair.

Virgin hair generally refers to human hair that has not been chemically altered through processes such as dyeing, bleaching, or permanent texturizing.

In other words, the hair has not been chemically processed to change its original color or texture.

Virgin hair can still be washed, conditioned, sorted, and mechanically handled during preparation and manufacturing.

How Can Hair Be Both Remy and Virgin?

The answer is simple.

These terms describe two different characteristics.

- **Remy** refers to the direction of the hair's cuticles.
- **Virgin** refers to its chemical processing history.

Think of it this way: Remy tells you how the hair strands are aligned, while Virgin tells you whether the hair has been chemically altered.

If hair has never been chemically processed and its cuticles are aligned in the same direction, it can be both Virgin and Remy.

However, Remy hair is not automatically Virgin, and Virgin hair is not automatically Remy.

For example, hair can be Remy but not Virgin if its cuticles are aligned but it has been dyed or otherwise chemically processed.

Likewise, hair can be Virgin but not necessarily Remy if it has never been chemically processed but its cuticles are not consistently aligned.

Understanding this distinction helps you look beyond marketing labels and make a more informed decision about the hair you're purchasing.

5. How Light Can Virgin Hair Lift When Bleached?

Now, let's talk about how light Virgin hair can lift.

Because genuine Virgin hair has not been previously chemically processed, it may be a better candidate for coloring than hair that has already undergone multiple chemical treatments.

But how light can Virgin hair lift when bleached?

There's no single blonde level that every bundle of Virgin hair can safely reach.

The result depends on its original color, natural pigment, condition, and the bleaching process used.

Dark Virgin hair may lift through reddish-brown, copper, orange, and yellow stages before reaching a lighter blonde.

With professional processing, some hair may reach a level 8 or 9 blonde, while other hair may not reach those levels without significant damage.

Achieving a platinum appearance may require additional lifting and toning, depending on the starting color and desired result.

It's important to understand that bleaching removes pigment and can weaken the hair, even if the hair has never been chemically treated before.

Trying to lift hair too quickly or too aggressively can lead to dryness, breakage, and loss of elasticity.

That's why a professional should perform a strand test before bleaching an entire wig or bundle.

And remember, once Virgin hair is chemically colored, bleached, or permanently texturized, it is no longer Virgin in its original unprocessed state.

Virgin hair may offer more coloring flexibility, but its actual lifting ability depends on the hair itself, not just the label.

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6. Understanding Raw Hair

Next, let's talk about Raw hair.

Raw hair is generally understood in the hair industry to be human hair that has undergone little to no chemical processing and has not been chemically altered to create a specific color or texture.

Unlike hair that has been heavily processed, Raw hair may retain more of its natural characteristics, including its original color, texture, and variation.

When hair has not undergone aggressive chemical processing, its natural cuticle layer may remain more intact.

Preserving the cuticle's condition can help support the hair's strength and manageability.

However, Raw hair is not automatically perfect hair.

Its performance depends on its original condition, how it was handled, how it was prepared, and how it is maintained.

Natural Variation in Raw Hair

Another characteristic of Raw hair is that its natural texture may vary.

You may notice slight differences in curl patterns, strand thickness, or color between bundles.

Those variations can be consistent with hair that retains more of its natural characteristics rather than being processed to look identical.

However, natural variation alone does not prove that hair is Raw.

A vendor's claims should be supported by reliable information about the hair's sourcing and processing history.

Can Raw Hair Be Colored or Bleached?

Yes, Raw hair may be a suitable candidate for professional coloring, but that doesn't mean it's immune to damage.

Bleaching still removes pigment and can weaken the hair.

Results depend on the starting color, the hair's condition, and the coloring technique.

Once Raw hair undergoes chemical coloring or texture-altering treatments, it is no longer chemically unprocessed in its original state.

And here's something important to remember:

The word Raw is widely used in the hair industry, but there is no single universal standard guaranteeing that every vendor's Raw hair has the same processing history.

That's why it's important to ask questions about sourcing, processing, cuticle condition, and the evidence behind a vendor's claims.

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7. The Final Takeaway

So, these terms describe different things:

- **Remy:** Cuticle direction.
- **Virgin:** Chemical history.
- **Raw:** Processing level.

No label guarantees a specific result.

How long hair lasts depends on quality, processing, cuticle condition, wear, and maintenance.

Gentle care helps, but no label guarantees a specific timespan.

At **Quanzie Crown Wigs**, our goal is to keep things clear so you can shop with confidence.

An educated customer is a confident customer.

