

Why Are My Cassia and Henna Turning Brownish, or Worse?

If you apply cassia or henna and the results are dingy, brownish, or blackish, there may be minerals, metallic salts, or alkalinity in your local water supply that are reacting with the quinone molecules, lawsone (in henna) or chrysophanol (in cassia). If these minerals or metallic salts are present in your keratin either through absorption through the water you use for drinking or showering, they will darken your henna and cassia colors, often to a very disagreeable shade.

If your hair test shows a muddy color, determine whether you have hard water or other mineral contaminants in your water supply. Do your tea kettle, faucets, and drains develop a buildup of minerals over time? Does soapy water scum over rather than creating bubbles when you slosh it around? Was there mineral, metal, or coal mining, or petroleum production by pumping, fracking, or extraction in your area? Minerals, metallic salts, and ions may have leached into your water system from manmade and natural sources. Your water district may be providing water that is harmless and safe to drink, but which has compounds that will interact with henna and cassia.¹

If hard or alkaline water² has left residue on the surface of your hair, or bound into your keratin, it can be removed with Ancient Sunrise® Rainwash. Rainwash contains citric acid, ascorbic acid, and xanthan gum which will dissolve and precipitate out the minerals from your hair. Even if henna and cassia are not browning from dissolved minerals in your water, a Rainwash treatment will make your hair softer by removing hard water residue.



You will need to make a solution of Ancient Sunrise® Rainwash and distilled water to remove hard water residue from your hair, or to neutralize alkaline residue.

¹ Go to this link to view a map of hard water areas in the USA: <http://water.usgs.gov/owq/hardness-alkalinity.html#map>

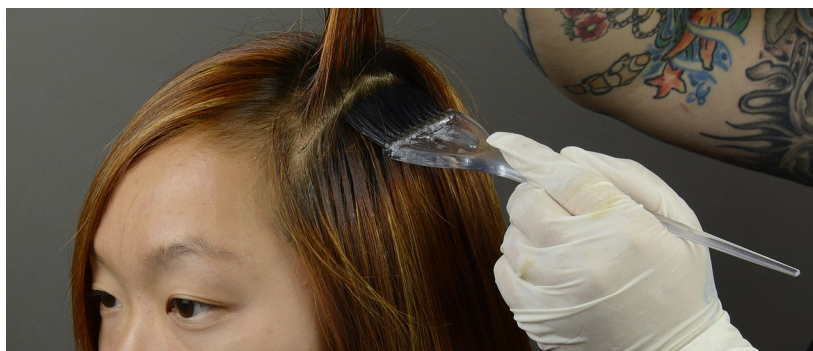
² Go to this link to view a map of alkaline surface water in the USA: <http://water.usgs.gov/owq/alkus.pdf>



Stir five grams or one teaspoon of Ancient Sunrise® Rainwash into two ounces of distilled water if your hair is five inches long. If your hair is longer than five inches, mix more of the same proportion of Rainwash and distilled water; allow one spoonful and two ounces of water for each four or five inches of length.



Shampoo and dry hair, then section it.



Begin to paint the Ancient Sunrise® Rainwash and distilled water solution into the hair.



Section the hair into ¼” sections, to paint Ancient Sunrise® Rainwash evenly onto all the hair.



Paint Ancient Sunrise® Rainwash on both sides of the hair section down to the tips of the hair.





When all of the hair is completely painted with Rainwash, wrap the hair with plastic wrap. For your initial treatment, leave the Rainwash in your hair for forty minutes. If you smell a sulfur smell while the Rainwash is working, that would be one of the minerals being released from your hair.



If you know that your water has mineral or alkaline content that is interfering with henna or cassia, do a five minute treatment every week. Your hair will be softer, and your henna and cassia colors will not go dull.

Ancient Sunrise® Henna for Hair Chapter 12 Troubleshooting

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Cover Graphic by Alex Morgan

Published by TapDancing Lizard® LLC

339 Tallmadge Rd. Kent, Ohio, 44240

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