HEALTHY HAIR HOW-TO

LOC BRUSHING GUIDE

Style Secrets To Maintaining Lint-Free Locs That Shine.

— As Featured In —

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WELCOME

Hello Love, my name is K. Hill, the creator of Loc•cessories.

I want to thank you for your purchase. You've made a great decision. It is my humble goal with everything that I offer, to make your loc journey a whole lot easier.

I created Loc•cessories in 2011 to serve as an online resource of natural hair accessories made for curls, coils, kinks & locs. It is meant to serve you by offering handcrafted hair accessories, hair care maintenance tools and lifestyle products that give you the space to show up in the world as your true, authentic self. Unapologetic in your beauty.

If there's anything that you need, have a question about your item(s) or just a general question about #thatnaturallife, I'd love to hear from you! Feel free to drop me a line anytime..

Best wishes on your loc journey!

-K. Hill

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Loc Brushing Basics

THE WHAT, THE HOW, THE WHY DOES IT MATTER...

YOUR NEW SOFT BOAR BRISTLE BRUSH WILL HELP YOU GET RID OF LINT IN YOUR LOCS, SURFACE DEBRIS AND OTHER PARTICLES. REGULAR USE ALSO HELPS DISTRIBUTE YOUR HAIR'S NATURAL OILS, MAKING THEM NATURALLY SOFT AND SHINY.

Loc brushing is not yet a widely known practice amongst all LocStars , however seasoned veterans have discovered that it yields excellent results. Among the many benefits, it is particularly helpful in keeping your dreadlocks free from surface dust and lint and gives them a nice healthy sheen by distributing your natural oils more evenly throughout the dreadlock.

Because of the twists and tangles inherent in loc'ing curly hair, it's very difficult for the natural oils your scalp produces to travel all the way down your loc. If you use oils or moisture mists on your locs, a great practice is to use them just before you brush your dreadlocks to evenly distribute and moisturize the oils throughout.

A soft bristle brush made with natural fibers, such as boar bristles, is the recommended choice.The bristles of a boar bristle brush are most like human hair and does not damage or tear the hair strands. Brushes with bristles that are synthetic and hard will damage the integrity of the loc and cause breakage or thinning later down the road if used excessively.

While natural boar bristle brushes are more expensive than synthetic ones, (nylon for example), it's better to invest in a quality soft bristle brush now, than pay the high price of disappointment and/or extensive loc repair later.

But before we dive into the loc brushing tips, a word of caution...

Word of Caution...

DON'T START TOO SOON.

Be careful not to start brushing your dreads too early in your loc journey.When they are just starting to form (a.k.a. the "baby phase") the strands are still very delicate and could unravel easily if disturbed. So in the early stage, simply stick with preventive measures such as protecting your locs at night with a head scarf and using natural products to ward against lint and build-up.

One of the top two troublesome issues LocStars face is dry locs and lint. It's something that always creeps up at some point in the course of the loc journey and too many dreadlock wearers are suffering in silence.

Dry hair tend to plague textured locs more so than loose naturals or finer hair textures simply because of the nature of the dreadlocking process.

What happens is the natural sebum from your scalp that would normally travel the length of the hair strand with daily combing and brushing gets sidetracked by all of the many twists and turns a dreadlock has and never quite makes its way down to the full length of the dreadlock.

As a result, hair ends up feeling dry and brittle. This can not only leave a dull appearance, but can cause locs to thin out and break as well.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

If you've been struggling with dry locs no matter which hair products you try, then you'll benefit greatly from brushing your locs on a regular basis.

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TRANSFORM YOUR LOC JOURNEY WITH BRUSHING

Investing in a soft boar-bristle brush can truly be one of the best decisions you make for your locs, as they are gentle yet super effective in strengthening hair and increasing shine.

Using a clamp-style bristle brush can make things much easier too, because the double-sided action helps you to cover both sides of the locs at the same time to remove any buildup and smooth the shaft of your loc. This is a great time saver if you have longer locs and ensures that you're getting good coverage.

Loc brushing can be done on wet or dry hair. The choice really comes down to your personal preference. Dry brushing is the method of brushing through your locs to loosen dirt, distribute your hair's natural sebum production and smooth your hair.

This method can be performed outside of the shower, and is perfect for those instances when you don't have time to set aside for wetting and drying your hair.

Wet brushing is more often used to add moisture and shine to locs. Using water and a light moisturizing spritz along with your loc brush helps to soften your locs distributes your hair's natural oils along the length of your locs.

LOC BRUSHING BEST PRACTICES

- Brush on windy days
- During high pollen seasons
- Immediately after yard work or house cleaning

The Benefits of Loc Brushing

1) GET RID OF PESKY BUILDUP & KEEP DUST BUNNIES AT BAY

Loc brushing is great at loosening up and removing dead skin cells, dirt, oil and lint from your hair.

Too much buildup can cause locs to appear dull and dirty, so brushing your locs regularly ensures that gunk doesn't have enough time to build up and become intertwined with your hair. This way, your hair looks, smells and feels cleaner for much longer without you having to wash it as often.

2) CONDITIONS AND SMOOTHS FRIZZY, WAYWARD STRANDS

Frizzy hair is hair that's crying out for moisture from the air around it. With loc brushing, you help the hair to evenly distribute those nourishing natural oils, (a.k.a. sebum), down the length of your dreads.

This not only calms frizz and tames your dreadlocks, but because sebum is naturally a softening substance, you'll notice more suppleness without the buildup that comes with using a heavy sealant to moisturize.

3) PREVENTS BREAKAGE

The root-to-tip sebum distribution that loc brushing promotes is known to strengthen the loc and make it much more resilient against breakage and thinning. Moisturized hair is far, far stronger than dry, parched hair.

Moisturized hair can bend, twist and stretch without breaking because its moisture level keeps it supple and elastic, but dry hair often snaps easily.

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The Benefits of Loc Brushing

5) IT'S A GREAT WAY TO MAINTAIN YOUR DREADLOCKS BETWEEN LOC MAINTENANCE SESSIONS

Taking care of locs can be time consuming, and it's not uncommon to want to place all of that responsibility in the hands of your favorite loctician and forget about it.

However, learning to take care of your own locs with ease doesn't just help you become one with your hair – it keeps money in your pocket, too!

QUICK TIPS

CLEANING YOUR BRUSH IS SUPER IMPORTANT. AT LEAST EVERY OTHER WEEK, USE WARM WATER AND SOAP TO CLEANSE YOUR BRUSH OF ANY OIL AND DIRT.

USING A SATIN HEAD WRAP OR PILLOWCASE AT NIGHT CAN BOOST THE EFFECTS OF LOC BRUSHING. SATIN MATERIALS KEEP FRIZZ AT BAY, WON'T DRY YOUR HAIR OUT, AND THEY'RE LINT-FREE, UNLIKE COTTON!

PROTECTIVE STYLES CAN BE YOUR BEST FRIEND. FOR A FEW DAYS EVERY WEEK, KEEP YOUR HAIR TIED UP OR WRAPPED UP TO MAINTAIN MOISTURE LEVELS AND KEEP LINT AND DIRT AWAY FROM YOUR HAIR.

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How To Loc Brush with Confidence.

Loc brushing is a quick and simple process.

Simply start from the scalp and move down the hair shaft with your brush. Short locs can be brushed all together, while long locs can be split into sections and brushed separately if need be.

The bristles of your brush can make your scalp a bit frizzy if it's just been re-twisted or interlocked because that area is not yet matted. So you can choose to skip your scalp and only brush your locs if this is the case.

Relax, take your time and enjoy your loc brushing!

You can view a demo video here: https://youtu.be/xkfCwwFwMfg

WHEN TO BRUSH YOUR DREADLOCKS

Again, you should introduce loc brushing into your maintenance routine only after your locs have left their baby phase because they are prone to unraveling more easily during this stage. You don't want to risk undoing your locs unnecessarily!

Instead, waiting until they hit the teenage phase is best – a.k.a., when unraveling is no longer an issue because the dreadlock has matted and become structurally sound.

Loc brushing reaps the best rewards when it's done for about five minutes everyday or every other day before bed, whether done wet or dry. You wil notice a change in your locs after as little as one week!

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TROUBLE WITH LINT IN YOUR LOCS?

Lint, the tiny particles of fiber or fiber-debris that's often visible on cotton fabrics, love to attach themselves to locs. Fabrics such as sweaters, knit caps and tams, cotton pillowcases and blankets all contribute to those pesky fibers finding their way into your hair. Also, the hair products such as waxes, gels, and heavy cream-based products can attract lint and product build-up as well.

You have the power to reduce the risk of attracting lint to your locs. With a few simple adjustments, you can take back control of your dreadlock health.

Here are some tips:

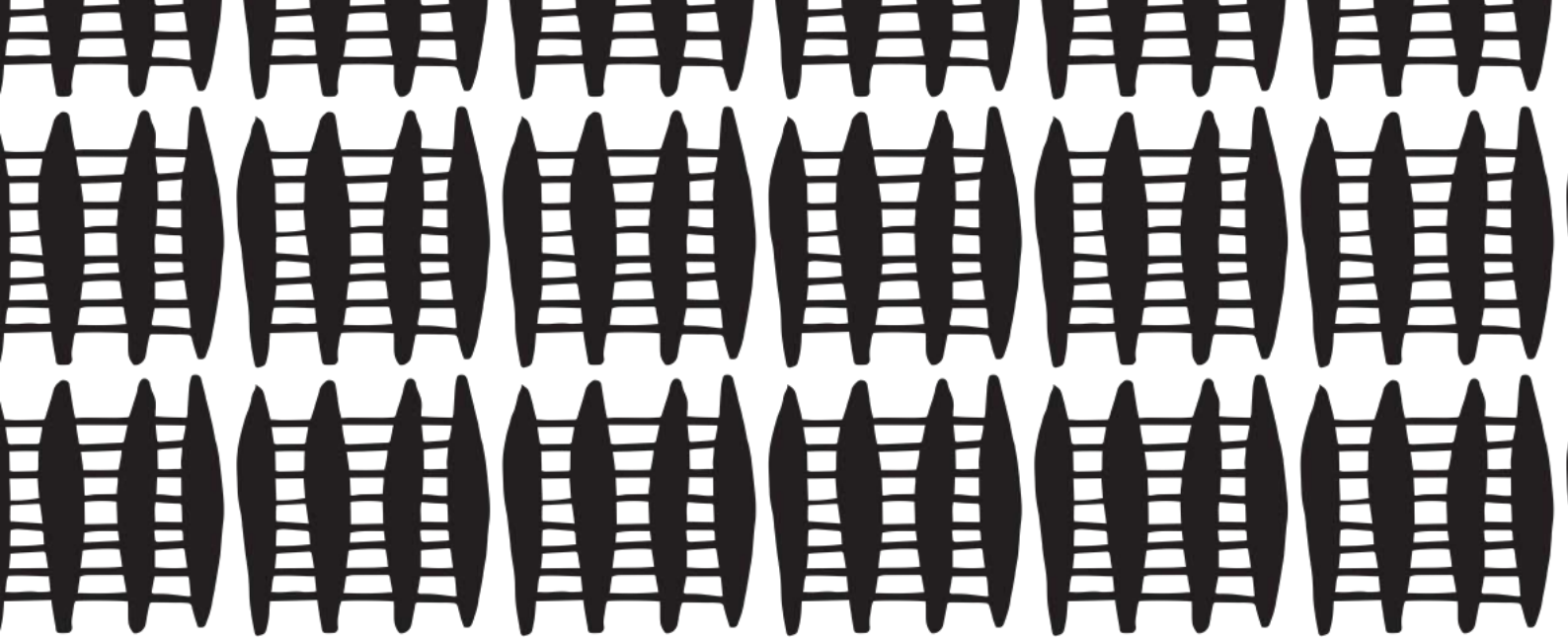
Cover Your Locs When Cleaning. When cleaning or doing anything that may stir up dust particles around the house or in the yard or garage, cover your locs. A silk scarf or satin bonnet will go a long way in keeping lint from settling in your hair..

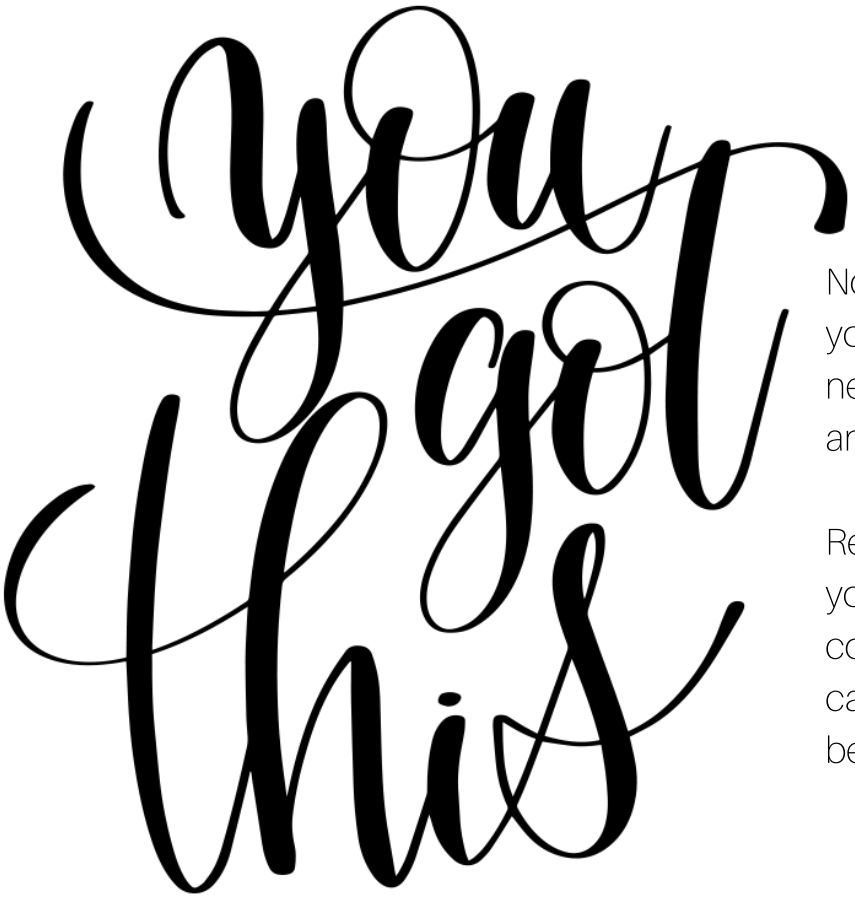
Use Satin Pillowcases or Night Caps. Don't overlook the effect your pillow has on your locs nor the amount of lint it may hold. Swap out your cotton pillowcases for satin ones. Sleep with a silky night cap to ensure you have full coverage throughout the night.

Pick It Out. Lint lifter tweezers are an excellent option for helping you pick out stubborn lint fibers that are difficult to remove without damaging or interrupting the overall structure of your dreadlocks.

100% Pure Black Soap Clarifying Shampoo. 100% pure black soap clarifying shampoo works wonders in deep cleansing your dreads and dissolving product buildup. If you are dealing with dreadlocks that contain mildew or rancid odors, this shampoo will help.

Lint-Free Microfiber Towel. Lint-free microfiber towels are wonderful as they absorb water from your wet locs and speed up drying time. This will reduce the risk of mold growth and doesn't add lint back to your locs like cotton towels do.





Now that you have the 411 on loc brushing, you are armed and ready with the tools you need to cultivate dreadlocks that flourish and thrive.

Remember, you don't have to be rigid in your maintenance routine. However, coming up with a regular schedule you can stick to will definitely give you the best results for yoru efforts..

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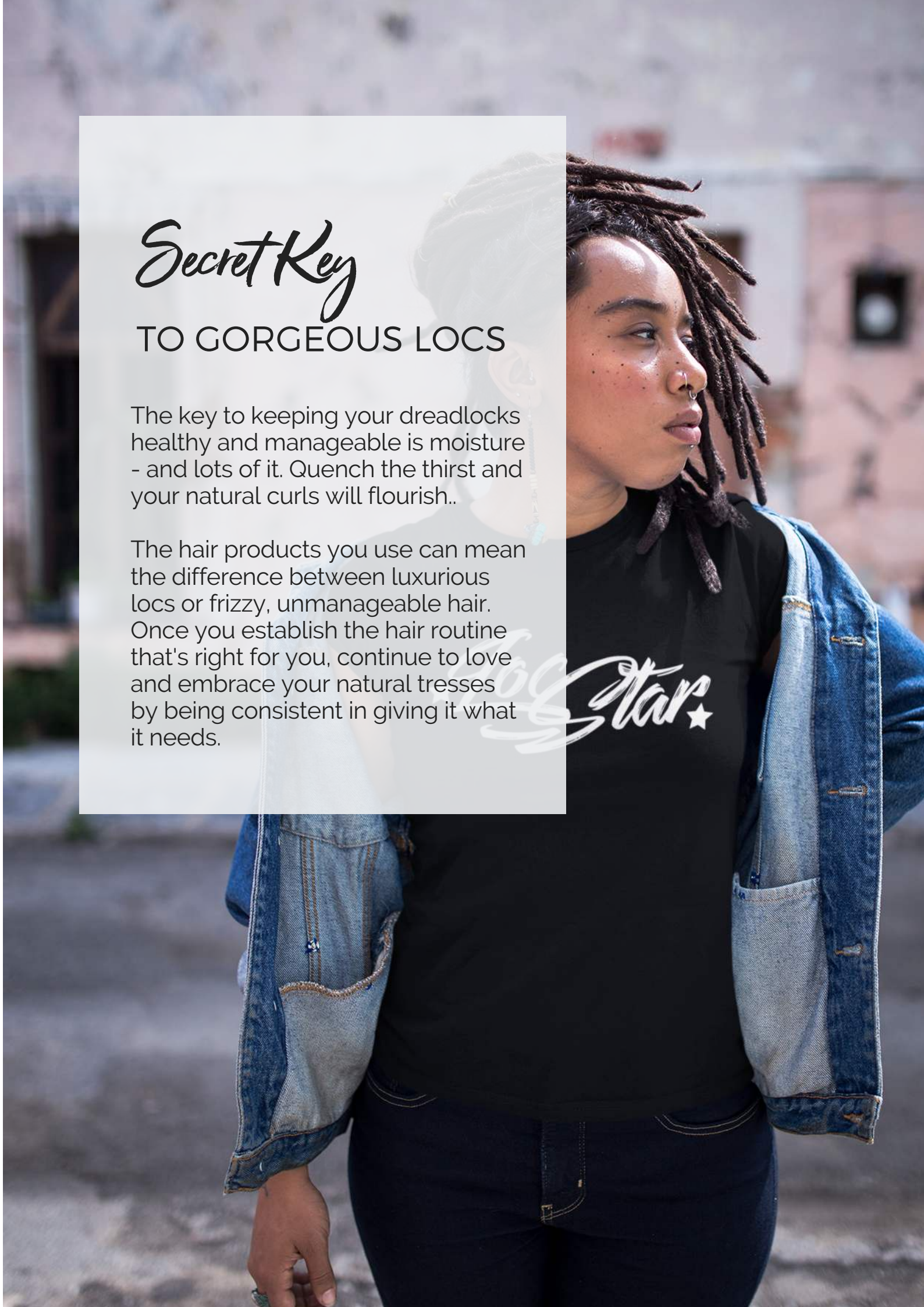

Secret Key

TO GORGEOUS LOCS

The key to keeping your dreadlocks healthy and manageable is moisture - and lots of it. Quench the thirst and your natural curls will flourish..

The hair products you use can mean the difference between luxurious locs or frizzy, unmanageable hair. Once you establish the hair routine that's right for you, continue to love and embrace your natural tresses by being consistent in giving it what it needs.

Do You Dread Wash Day?

Tired of searching for must-have hair tools to make your loc'd life easier? Have your wash day essentials at the ready with our Dreadlocks Essentials Maintenance Kit.

- Ideal for at-home maintenance or in- between styling sessions
- Includes the bestselling Dreadlock Shampoo Brush for an invigorating scalp massage
- Open-ended ponytail holders ideal for lots of locs & thick, curly hair textures
- Natural linen drawstring bag keeps all of your wash day essentials conveniently in one place

THE "LOVE MY LOCS" DREADLOCK ESSENTIALS KIT INCLUDES:

- Dreadlock Shampoo Brush
- XXL Shower Cap (Extra Extra Large for comfort fit; no messy leaks)
- The Original Ouchless, Snagless InstaLoc Hair Tool for Dreadlock Maintenance
- (1) Handcrafted Bone Loc Tie
- (1) Lint Lifter Tweezer Tool
- (2) Open-ended ponytail holders
- Black Hair Elastics
- Natural linen drawstring reusable travel bag

It's everything you need to keep your locs looking 'so fresh & so clean.' Visit the Loccessories store on Amazon to order yours today! Makes a great gift for yourself or the LocStar in your life.

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YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...

Whether you're looking for hair maintenance tools to keep your style on point, or fun, hair apparel to represent you well. Here are some additional items to make loc'd life a whole lot easier and accompany you on your loc journey.

WASH DAY KIT

Available Now | Check Price

All your wash day essentials for healthy dreadlock maintenance.

DREADLOCKS SLEEP CAP

Available Now | Check Price

Protect your dreadlocks from lint and debris. Extend the life of a fresh retwist.

LOC DETOX KIT

Available Now | Check Price

At home DIY kit to remove unsightly product buildup and lint.

GOT LOCS? HOODIE

Available Now | Check Price

Retro hoodie representing. Here to help you say it loud, "Got Locs & I'm Proud!"

LOC NATION T-SHIRT

Available Now | Check Price

An homage to classic hip-hop. This tee is your calling card to rock with your true tribe.

LOCSTAR T-SHIRT

Available Now | Check Price

Whether or not the world takes notice, we see you shining. You're a LocStar baby.

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A Final Word

YOUR BEAUTY MATTERS. PERIOD.

It needs no fine print or apology. You shine a standard of beauty without illusion or assimilation. Conformity has been shaken as you redefine the norm.

So keep shining. Let no one dim your light.