

## Curly Updos

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**Curly Hair for Formal Occasions** Curly hair is a great way to dress up an outfit. A curly hair style can look flirtatious, carefree, or sophisticated, depending on how it is styled. No matter what length your hair is, a curly formal hairstyle is a great way to add instant polish to an outfit.

**How to Curl Your Hair** If you want to wear your hair curly, you will need to add some curl to it. Even with naturally curly hair, it really creates a more polished and formal look to use a styling device to add curl. How you add curl depends a great deal on your hair's natural texture, length, and the style you wish to wear. If your hair is naturally curly, you should let it air dry, and do not handle it at all. Once your hair is dry, use a curling iron to go around your head, starting at the crown, and curl segments. Spray each curl lightly with hairspray as it comes out of the iron. If your hair has some wave or is straight, you can blow dry your hair. If your hair normally holds curl, you may be able to use the same process that someone with curly hair would once your hair is dry. Start at the crown and work your way around your head, spraying each curl with hairspray as it comes out of the curling iron. If your hair is hard to curl, or does not hold a style for long, you will have better luck using a multi step approach to curling your hair. After you dry your hair, but before you curl it, spray your hair, from root to tip, with a spray gel, or spread a mouse or gel product through your hair. Then, begin curling your hair. As each curl is removed from the curling iron, use a bobby pin to pin it to your head and spray with hairspray. Once you have curled and pinned your entire head, you can gently remove the bobby pins. Do not run your fingers or a comb through your hair, gently place your hair how you want it, and spray again with hairspray. **Alternative Curling Methods** While a curling iron is the most common way to add curls for a formal look, there are other methods. Hot curlers can be used, and have the added benefit of providing long lasting curls on even hard to curl hair. The main drawback of hot curls is that they typically leave you with big, bouncy curls. This is normally considered a more casual look. You may find that you like that style, though. Sponge curlers are something that many of us have not used since childhood. Placed in wet hair and slept in, they are not terrible comfortable, but they do provide long lasting, springy curls. If you can tolerate them, they work well. Velcro rollers, even the smaller ones, add body to the hair but do not add curls. While these work great for straight hair that needs added body, you will not be able to create a curly hairstyle with them. **Curling Your Hair and Leaving It Down** Many people feel that when wearing a formal gown, their hair should be up. That is not necessary. Many women feel over exposed with an updo, particularly if they are wearing a strapless or low cut gown. Wearing your hair down, but curled, can be a great way to add some pizzazz to your outfit while still feeling confident in your look. It does not matter what length your hair is, a curly style can work for you. If you normally wear your hair in a sleek bob, you should consider a curly bob. It will automatically add a daring and carefree look to your outfit. Have long straight hair? Taking the time to curl it will add instant sophistication. **Curly Updos** Wearing your hair in an updo? Consider adding some curl. Whether you curl just a few tendrils around your face, or curl the loose ends all over your head, a curly updo adds a level of old world glamour that is hard to mimic with any other hairstyle. Don't have time to curl all of your hair? You can still work the curly hair style. Wear the popular half up half down style. Run your finger in a straight line across the back of your head, from ear to ear. The top layer gets pinned up in a twist. Now take your curling iron and curl random ends, from both the top and bottom section. This fresh style gives a playful and flirty look to your outfit. Curly hair can add a fun flirtatious look to a formal setting. Let your personality come out and put some girl in your hairstyle. ~Ben Anton, 2008