

TEXTURE 101



**Learn about textures and
how to determine yours!**

#HairOnPurpose

Hair Texture **vs.** Hair Typing System



...and why it doesn't work for everyone

A hair classification system created by Andre Walker that split hair textures up by numbers and letters (1A- 4C) helped to guide the natural hair community when it there was no easy way to determine your texture.

However, as we learned more and more about hair texture we also learned the areas of opportunities where this hair classification system fell short.

The industry had to acknowledge that hair texture exists in a variety of textures based on very unique genetic structure.

So we won't attempt to classify it here, rather we are opting to share what we know to be true about hair texture and the best way to learn about yours.

WHAT IS TEXTURE?

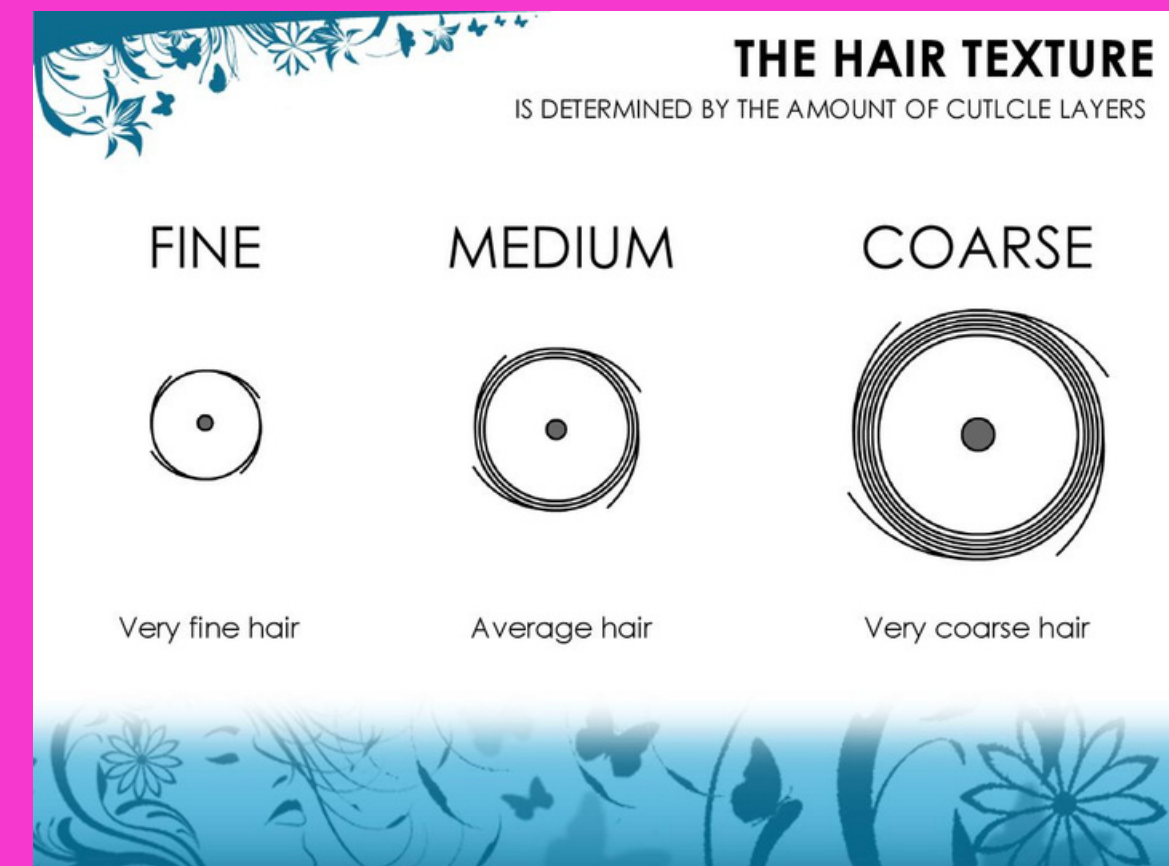


So back to it...what is texture?

Hair Texture for starters is defined as the width/ thickness of each individual strand of hair and determined by the thickness of cuticle layers.

We all have three basic hair textures:

- **Fine**
- **Medium**
- **Coarse**



FINE HAIR



Fine hair is the most fragile texture and thus can be easily damaged. Fine hair can tends to be oilier than other hair types and holding a curled style may be difficult. Volume is often desired but not often attained. Structurally fine hair has two hair layers – a cortex and a cuticle.

Fine natural hair summary:

- **Doesn't hold styles well**
- **Can become weighed down with heavy products, causing the hair to look stringy**
- **Can look thin**
- **Can break easily because it's fragile**

MEDIUM HAIR



Medium hair is the most common hair type and often covers the scalp very well. This hair texture is not as fragile as fine hair and can be manipulated into styles easily. Structurally, medium textures usually have two layers – the cortex and cuticle – and may contain the medulla.

Medium natural hair summary:

- Holds styles fairly well
- Usually looks thick and covers the scalp well
- Is not as prone to breakage as fine hair

COARSE HAIR



This hair texture is strong because structurally it contains all three hair layers – the cortex, cuticle and medulla. The medulla, the innermost layer of the hair shaft. It's an area filled mostly with air and protein. This hair texture usually takes longer to dry than others, and can be resistant to various chemical treatments. It can tolerate heat well and resist breakage better than the fine or medium hair.

Coarse natural hair summary:

- **Appears full**
- **Holds styles well**
- **Can tolerate higher amounts of heat**
- **Can be resistant to hair coloring and chemical relaxers**

Hair Texture **vs.** Hair Type

A hair type, not to be confused with hair texture refers to the shape of the hair fiber. There are generally four basic hair types straight, wavy, curly, and kinky curly.

Straight:



Straight hair is the strongest of the hair types and reflects light to the eye the best giving it a glossy appearance.

Wavy:



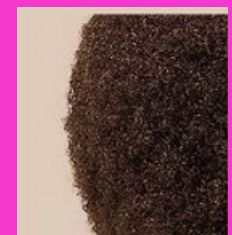
Wavy hair has s-shaped curls down its length or much of the hair can appear straight with slight bends towards the ends of the hair.

Curly



Curly hair generally is c shaped down the entire length of the hair shaft.

Kinky Curly



Kinky Curly hair type has the tightest curls and generally tends to be the most fragile.