

# Top guns

Desperate to avoid another winter of damp hair, we tested the newest blow-dryers on the market in search of the best fire power. **By Liz Plosser Photographs by Donna Rickles**

I've been using the same \$20, drugstore-brand blow-dryer on my long, thick hair for the last six years. And what do I have to show for it? Scorched roots, damaged ends, untamed frizz—and a soggy mane that accumulates icicles from November to March. "I haven't used an over-the-counter dryer for two decades," admits Mark Katz, a stylist at Siren Salon (3143 N Lincoln Ave, 773-549-0800). "I tell my clients: Yes, professional dryers are pricey, but they pay off in the long run. They last longer and do the job quickly." Taking his advice, I road-tested this season's best models.



▶ **Tempo XXP by Ergo**  
**\$210 at**

**Ergostylingtools.com**

**Blow by blow** With three heat settings, a COOL SHOT button (to seal cuticles, locking in moisture and creating a shiny finish) and plenty of power, Katz favors this (noisy) dryer at the salon.

**Fave feature** The cord is 12 feet long, so you can rummage through your closet for something to wear to work while you dry.

▶ **MegaTurbo**  
**2500 \$100 at**

**Siren Salon**

**Blow by**

**blow** Its two speed settings are

standard, but five temperature settings and an anti-overheating device provide an added bonus—you never have to worry about fried hair.

**Fave feature** The removable stainless-steel filter simplifies cleaning, which also makes the device last longer.



▶ **BaByliss Pro Tourmaline**  
**5000 \$150 at**

**Stylesource.com**

**Blow by blow** The dryer's heater is made of tourmaline, a gemstone that's a natural source of negative ions, which supposedly break apart water molecules to zap moisture quickly.

**Fave feature** This quiet model beats every other version on drying speed alone: My dripping locks transformed into a salon-caliber blowout in under ten minutes.

▶ **Bespoke Labs**  
**Featherweight**

**\$200 at**

**Sephora.com**

**Blow by blow** Air

flows in a cone shape from the nozzle onto sections of hair for fast and even drying. The infrared heat technology dries hair inside and out, smoothing away frizzies.

**Fave feature** Weighing in at an überlight 13 ounces, this is the perfect travel companion.



▶ **Conair Ceramic**  
**Quiet Styler \$23 at**

**Walgreens**  
**(locations throughout the city)**

**Blow by blow** If you insist on getting a drugstore model, this is as good as it gets with 1,875 watts, two heat settings, a COOL SHOT button and a finger-diffuser attachment (for curly locks).

**Fave feature** A foldable handle makes it a cinch to store in your apartment's tiny bathroom.

▶ **Elchim II**  
**Futuro \$169 at**

**Elchimusa.com**

**Blow by blow**

Katz says to look for models with at least 1,875 watts of power—

otherwise the dryer relies on high temps to dry (a.k.a. scorch) hair. This blue beauty packs a powerful 2,000-watt punch, but the air flow is controlled, not haywire.

**Fave feature** The ergonomic, polypropylene shell and handle are crack- and heat-proof.



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