



COLOR CHANGES

Hair and nails, just as the skin, can turn various colors, depending upon a variety of internal or external factors. Some examples follow:

• Blue

- Ingestion of dapsone to excess – methemoglobinemia
- Ingestion of minocycline to excess
- Ingestion of silver salts turning the skin slate-gray – argyria

• Green

- Copper sulfate in swimming pool water afflicting blonde hair
- Ingestion of tetracycline making the hair fluoresce
- Pseudomonas aeruginosa infection of the nails

• Brown

- Escherichia coli infection of the nails
- Nicotine stains of the skin

• Red

- Flushing and blushing of the face
- Ingestion of excessive amounts of tomatoes turning the skin red – lycopenia
- Telangiectasia of the nose and cheeks

• Yellow

- Ingestion of excessive amounts of carrots turning the skin yellow – carotenemia

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