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This report looks at the following areas:

- Impact of COVID-19 on women's haircare routines.
- Usage frequency of women's haircare and styling products in the last 12 months.
- Interest in types of personalisation when it comes to haircare/styling products.
- Interest in innovation areas when it comes to haircare/styling products.
- Purchase behaviours of haircare/styling products in the last 12 months.

The women's haircare category has maintained its market size in recent years, however, 2020 significantly impacted usage behaviours resulting in an 8% decline in value, reaching £1.26 billion.

COVID-19 has disrupted haircare and styling routines; 30% of female shampoo users have shampooed their hair less frequently since the start of the pandemic and the usage of styling products has reduced as prolonged periods at home have reduced the need to keep up appearances.

The shift in usage behaviours is the biggest threat in the category, as working from home is set to become a feature of the next normal. Haircare and styling routines were relaxing even before the pandemic, with the trend being exacerbated by COVID-19. As women continue to spend more time at home in the medium and longer term, brands will need to offer more than just appearance benefits to drive usage.

There are opportunities in more meaningful personalisation; products based on hair density is a top five interest area for 47% of female haircare and styling users when it comes to personalised haircare/styling. There is also high interest in more sustainable options, with 52% of female haircare users showing interest in using haircare/styling products made using sustainably sourced ingredients.



"Women's haircare/styling routines were relaxing even before the pandemic, however, stay-at-home measures have significantly impacted usage behaviours, with a shift in routines set to remain. Styling has seen the greatest setback, however, across all segments brands that have maintained marketing activity and innovated in areas of interest to the consumer have fared well."

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