



Wool Tincture Dyes

The
easiest
way
to dye
wool.

INSTRUCTIONS

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- 4 Liter Dye Jar or Non-Reactive Dye Pot
- 1 Wool Tincture Dye (WTD) Tea Bag
- 1 Citric Acid Packet
- Stir Stick or Tongs
- 100 g/3.5 oz. Clean Wool
- 10 cups/2.5 Liters Very Hot Water
- Bowl Large Enough to Pre-wet Wool
- Hot Water Thermometer
- Dry Cloth for Catching Drips
- Trivet

GET READY

If you are unfamiliar with handling skeins, take a moment to untwist your skein and find where it's tied. Traditional skeins have two or three loose ties. Ties that are tight enough to crimp the yarn will prevent dye from absorbing in that area. Lifting and lowering your skeins from the area where it is tied will help keep the strands orderly.

Step 1: Thoroughly pre-wet yarn by soaking it in warm tap water while you prepare. Wool is incredibly resistant to absorption. Give it a gentle squeeze under water to help it along.

Step 2: Pre-warm your Dye Jar by filling it with warm tap water.

Step 3: Put the kettle on to heat 10 cups/2.5 liters of water to 180-190°F/82-87°C. Use a thermometer to be sure the temperature does not exceed 195°F/87°C.

PREPARE THE DYE BATH

Before you begin, place a trivet under your jar. You might also like to have a dry cloth handy for catching drips.

Step 1: When your hot water is ready, drain the warm water out of your dye jar and simply drop one WTD tea bag into the bottom of the empty jar.

Step 2: Slowly pour 10 cups/2.5 liters of very hot water (180-190°F/82-87°C) over the WTD tea bag and stir to dissolve. *DO NOT* pour boiling water into the glass jar.

Step 3: Use the stir stick to remove/discard the empty WTD tea bag from the dye bath. This helps prevent unwanted spots of over-saturation on your yarn.

Step 4: Gently remove excess water from your pre-wet skein and lower the yarn into the dye bath. Stir gently, and allow 2-3 minutes for the yarn to saturate.

DYE STRIKING

Striking is when the dye bonds with the wool. Read more about this below.

Step 1: Use your stir stick or tongs to move the yarn away from one side of the jar and drop one Citric Acid packet down the side of the jar.

Step 2: Encourage the citric acid to disperse by very gently stirring and turning over the skein. It is okay to leave the empty Citric Acid packet in the jar.

STRIKING is when dye bonds with wool. In addition to the properties of the dye itself, the temperature of the water and acidity of Citric Acid are what enable the dye to strike. You can expect dye colors to strike at different speeds. Some only take a minute or two, while most take 5-10 minutes. Darker colors will take longer, some up to 45 minutes. You will also notice that some exhausts leave a slight tint in the water. Blues, for example, can be especially stubborn.

USING WOOL TINCTURE DYES

Our palette is designed to produce a predictable color with a clear exhaust using one WTD tea bag on 100 grams/3.5 oz. of wool. As with all hand dyes, subtle variations between your batches can be expected. You can also expect the saturation or color to vary if you alter the weight of fiber or combine WTD tea bags. You may also experience different results when dyeing clean locks or roving instead of yarn. For safety and efficiency, do not combine more than three WTD tea bags at one time.

Wool Tincture Dyes are acid dyes designed for protein fibers only. They will not adhere to cellulose fibers such as cotton, hemp, or linen.

FINISHING

As the citric acid dissolves, the water around the yarn will begin to appear clear or mostly clear. The yarn is ready to be removed when the dye bath has been exhausted to your satisfaction.

Step 1: Gently remove the yarn when you are happy with its color or when the jar is cool enough to handle. Always use tongs when handle scalding yarn.

Step 2: Immediately spin out hot, dyed wool in a washer or spin dryer, and hang to dry. Alternatively, cool dye jar and yarn to room temperature, squeeze excess water from yarn and hang or lay flat to dry.

DYE SAFELY

Use Wool Tincture Dyes for their intended purpose and adhere to the instructions provided. Wool Tincture Dyes are safe to touch even though you won't have to. Here are some common sense safety tips to follow:

- Do not share your dye tools and supplies with food preparations.
- Avoid breathing directly over the jar while pouring in the hot water.
- Clean up after yourself when you are finished.

CAUTION: Pre-warm your jar. Never pour boiling water (200-212°F/94-100°C) into a cold glass jar.

WORKSPACE CLEANUP

When you're all finished, wipe down your area as you normally would with clean water or any all-purpose household cleaner. Rinse your Dye Jar thoroughly with warm water, and dry the inside with a paper towel to ensure no residual dye is left behind.

LAUNDRY

To prolong the life of your work, hand wash in cool water with mild soap. Rinse in cool water with a splash of white vinegar to soften. Dry on a flat surface out of direct sun. Expensive Wool Soaps are a luxurious option, but not a necessity. A drop or two of liquid dish soap, hand soap, or even shampoo does the trick nicely.

QUESTIONS? We'd love to hear from you. Email your thoughts to:

wool@abundantearthfiber.com

You can find ideas, inspiration and instructions at:

AbundantEarthFiber.com/Dyes © 2022 Abundant Earth Fiber