

Dyeing with the Sun

Materials List



2 Quart Jar with Lid

Water

Cheesecloth 1 Square Foot

Dye Material 50 to 100 Grams of Fresh or Dried Dye Plant Parts

Fiber Cleaned and Untreated Natural Fabric, Cotton, Silk, Linen, Yarn, Fleece

Mordant Aluminum Acetate for cellulose fibers, Aluminum Sulfate for Protein Fibers

Label Fiber, Mordant used, Weights, Dye Material, Date

Preparing the Fiber for Dyeing

Mordant the Fiber



Thoroughly wash fiber with pH neutral soap

If pre-cleaned fiber is dry, soak in warm water for 1-2 hours

Weigh out correct Alum mordant: 10% of the weight of dry fiber (WOF). Aluminum Acetate for cellulose fibers and Aluminum Sulfate for Protein Fibers

Dissolve mordant in 1 cup hot water and add to 1 gallon cold water

Add moist fiber and bring to 190 degrees

Simmer for one hour and allow to cool. Rinse well before using in dye bath

You only have to mordant the fiber once! You can mordant as much fiber as you want at one time and save it for later to dye or overdye. Just make sure you label it so that you know it has already had the mordant added.

Creating the Solar Dye Bath



Use 1 to 1 weight ratio of dye material to dry fiber (WOF)

Wrap dye material in cheesecloth, secure and place in 2 quart jar

Add fiber to jar and fill jar with hot water

Place in full summer sun and leave for 4 to 7 days, turning a couple of times

Remove fiber and dry in warm location away from sun

After dry, rinse in cool water and dry again