

Members' Acid Dyeing Day

Acid dyes are for protein fibres (wool, silk or other animal fibres) and nylon only; soy fibre also counts as protein as it is from the bean and not the stalk of the plant. Blends are fine if the main fibre is protein - you can get some interesting effects.

REQUIREMENTS

Essentials:

- Wear old clothes!
- Pre-soaked fibre or yarn (see below)
- Five or six small yoghurt pots or plastic cups for mixing colours
- Plastic spoons or chopsticks for stirring dye solutions
- Notebook and pencil
- Waterproof apron and rubber gloves
- Old bowl or margarine tub for catching drips
- Paper kitchen towel
- 1ltr or 2ltr bottles for leftover dye stock
- Plastic bags/boxes to take dyed fibres home
- Plastic/glass measuring jug
- Newspaper for covering your working area
- Clingfilm

Useful if you have them but not essential:

- Scales (jewellers' scales, if you have them)
- Disposable pipettes
- Tongs for handling hot, dyed fibres
- Salad spinner (for removing excess water from dyed fibres)
- Electric / oven-top steamer
- Large casserole dish for immersion dyeing
- Books on dyeing / colour

PRE-SOAKING FIBRE

1. Soak yarn/fibre overnight - add a drop of washing-up liquid and 50ml of vinegar per 100g fibre in enough water to completely cover the yarn/fibre.
2. Squeeze out excess water until your yarn/fibre is still thoroughly damp but not dripping.