

DYEING FABRICS

Dyeing your clothes is a great way salvage all the clothes that are not in your chroma. It is simple and a lot of fun!

We use RIT Dye. They have lots of colors to choose from and great recipes. The following information is all off their website: www.ritdye.com.

Read over these instructions before you begin:

CHOOSE YOUR FABRIC!

RIT works best on many natural, washable fabrics such as...

- 100% cotton, linen, silk, wool, ramie
- Synthetics such as rayon, nylon and acetate
- Fiber blends with at least 60% cotton or other dyeable fiber (Blends will tint evenly but will not achieve full color)

...but there are fabrics that will not accept dye such as...

- Fabrics with 50% or more polyester content
- 100% acrylic, fiberglass, or metallic fibers
- Fabrics with rubber backing (bath mats or throw rugs)
- Fabrics with special finishes such as water repellents
- Fabrics with bleach damage or extensive staining
- Fabrics washable only in cold water or labeled "dry clean only"

** If you are in doubt as to whether your fabric will accept dye, test a swatch.

TIPS FOR TRUE COLOR

1. Always follow manufacturer's care instructions for your fabric as well as RIT Dye package or bottle instructions.

2. Remove stains on fabric with RIT Super Stain Remover or RIT Color Remover before dyeing to achieve uniform color results.

3. Choose your colors. You can use one, two, three or as many colors as you like on one garment. However, if you use more than one color, it's usually best to start with the lightest color.

4. Be sure to use enough dye for the weight or size of the project. For example, for a pound of dry fabric (about 3 yards), use one package of RIT powder or 1/2 bottle of RIT liquid in 3 gallons of water.

5. Dissolve powder dye thoroughly in 2 cups of very hot water first to avoid dye spotting. Stir dissolved powder dye or well-shaken liquid dye into dye bath until evenly dispersed. Never pour liquid or powder dye directly on fabric.

6. For the deepest color, use a water temperature of 140°F/60°C.

7. When dyeing 1 pound of dry fabric of dark or bright colors such as Black, Dark Brown, Cocoa Brown, Navy, Purple, Aubergine, Wine, and Dark Green, use double the amount, or 2 packages of RIT powder or 1 bottle of RIT liquid, in 3 gallons of water.

8. For best color results when dyeing fabrics containing cotton, rayon, ramie, or linen, add 1 cup salt.

9. The longer the garment is immersed in the dye bath, the deeper the resulting color. Items can remain in the dye bath up to 1 hour as long as the water remains hot. You'll also have to make sure the item receives constant agitation or stirring.

10. Garments will take dye differently due to their fabric content and weight. For example, we've shown below the varying shades of tangerine when used on different types of fabrics.

11. Garments will also look darker when wet and prior to washing.

12. When you remove clothes from dye bath, rinse in warm, then cool water until water runs clear.

13. Wash your clothes in cool water with detergent and then rinse thoroughly in cool water. Machine dry or hang dry.

TIPS FOR QUICK CLEAN-UP

1. Cover your workspace with a plastic drop cloth and/or newspaper.

2. Be sure to have sponges and paper towels on hand to wipe up spills.

3. Use plastic buckets or stainless steel pots for the dye bath. Don't dye or rinse items in plastic or in a fiberglass sink.

4. Clean containers and sinks immediately after dyeing by scrubbing with hot water and powdered cleanser or bleach.

5. Clean washing machine using highest water level with hot water, detergent and 1 cup chlorine bleach using complete wash cycle. Clean lint traps. Plastic or rubber machine parts may be tinted but will not stain laundry.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR DYED ITEMS TLC (Tender Loving Care)

For the first two or three times, wash your dyed item by itself in cool water with a small amount of non-bleaching detergent, such as DYNAMO or FAB. Always wash your dyed clothing with similar colors in cool water with mild detergent. Dry cleaning silks and special fabrics is recommended.

CHOOSE A DYEING TECHNIQUE

There are several techniques for dyeing - choose the right one for your project.

- For maximum convenience, and for large items, use the **washing machine** technique.
- Use the **stovetop** technique for best color results when dyeing with RIT Black Dye or other dark colors.
- The **sink or bucket** technique is suitable for dyeing small or delicate items.
- If you are just touching up a lightened area in fabric, the **spot-dyeing** method may be best.

WASHING MACHINE

Use this technique for maximum convenience and especially for large items.

1. Fill machine with enough hot water for fabric to move freely. Refer to the chart below for the right amount of dye to add. Pre-dissolve powder in 2 cups of hot water. Add pre-dissolved powder or liquid to hot dye bath.
2. Wet fabric in hot water. Uncrumple and add to dye bath.
3. Set machine for extended wash cycle. Fabric should be in dye bath for at least 30 minutes before rinse begins. (You can reset your washing machine before the rinse cycle begins for extended wash cycle.)
4. Rinse in cold water until water runs clear. Wash deep shades in warm water with mild detergent and rinse thoroughly in cool water.
5. Dry item in dryer or hang to dry.
6. Clean washing machine using highest water level with hot water, detergent and 1 cup chlorine bleach using complete wash cycle. Clean lint traps. Plastic or rubber machine parts may be tinted but will not stain laundry.

STOVETOP TECHNIQUE

This technique delivers the best color results when dyeing with black or other dark colors.

1. Fill pot with enough hot water for fabric to move freely. Remember: Use 1 package of RIT powder or 1/2 bottle of RIT liquid dye and 3 gallons of hot water for each pound of fabric. Pre-dissolve powder in 2 cups of hot water. Add pre-dissolved powder or liquid to dye bath. Stir to mix.
2. Wet fabric in hot water. Uncrumple and add to dye bath.
3. Bring dye bath to simmer. Stir constantly (back and forth, up and down) at least 30 minutes.
4. Rinse in warm water, then gradually cooler water until water runs clear. Wash item in warm water with mild detergent and rinse thoroughly in cool water.
5. Dry item in dryer or hang to dry.
6. Clean containers immediately with chlorine bleach. Scrub with chlorine-based powder, liquid, or gel cleanser, if necessary.

For help in choosing the right amount of RIT Dye go to:

<http://www.ritdye.com/Washing+Machine.32.lasso>

SINK OR BUCKET

This is the best technique for dyeing small or delicate items.

1. Fill sink or bucket with enough hot water for fabric to move freely. Remember: Use 1 package of RIT powder or 1/2 bottle of RIT liquid dye and 3 gallons of hot water for each pound of fabric. Pre-dissolve powder in 2 cups of hot water. Add pre-dissolved powder or liquid to dye bath. Stir to mix.
2. Wet fabric in hot water. Uncrumple and add to dye bath.
3. Stir constantly (back and forth, up and down) for 10 to 30 minutes.
4. Rinse in warm water, then gradually cooler water until water runs clear. Wash item in warm water with mild detergent and rinse thoroughly in cool water.
5. Dry item in dryer or air dry.
6. Clean sink or bucket immediately with chlorine bleach or scrub with chlorine-based powder, liquid, or gel cleanser.

SPOT-DYEING

Use this technique when you need to color correct or dye a very small amount of fabric.

1. We suggest using RIT liquid dye for this procedure for its easy, pre-dissolved convenience. If you choose to use powder dye, stir 1 teaspoon into 1/2 cup very hot tap water, 140°F/60°C. Stir to dissolve.
2. Cover a flat work area with a piece of plastic sheeting such as a trash can liner. Lay the garment flat on the work surface.

3. Wearing rubber gloves, pour 2 tablespoons RIT liquid dye into 1/2 cup of very hot tap water.
4. Dip a small corner of a piece of clean cloth into the hot dye, gently squeezing out the excess. Rub the affected area where you wish to apply the dye. For extremely small areas, you can use a cotton swab to apply the dye.
5. Allow the dye to set for 20 minutes. To further set the dye, press with a hot steam iron. Place a cloth on your ironing board and over the treated areas, then press.
6. Launder the fabric using cold water with mild detergent.