



Stony Creek Colors

OSAGE ORANGE

DYE RECIPE

Extract Osage Orange Chips into a dye bath:

Before dyeing with osage, we recommend mordanting your plant-based fibers (cotton or linen), with a mordant and tannin, like myrobalan and alum.

All dyestuff must first be processed to extract the pigment. In beginning any new project, the proper amount of Osage Orange Chips needs to be calculated.

1. Measure the weight of fabric, WOF. We recommend using 40% WOF, weight of dry materials.

For example, if you are dyeing 500 grams (1 pound) worth of fiber, you would need 200 grams of osage.

Weight of Fiber x 0.4 = weight of dry materials

2. Add about 1 quart of water into a pot and add the pre-measured amount of osage orange chips for your specific project.

3. Bring the water to about 175 degrees F, above a simmer but below a boil with slight steam, for about 30 minutes to an hour (the longer the better!).

4. Strain the osage from the liquid, saving the liquid. This liquid is your extract. You are now ready to begin dyeing and prepping your dye bath!

Dyeing with Osage Orange:

5. To prep your dye bath, fill a pot with enough water to fit your fiber.

6. Add the correct amount of dye, extracted liquid, and stir it well.

7. You are now ready to begin dyeing! Get your mordanted fabrics wet and ring them out until they are damp, this helps evenly distribute the dye.



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Tip: Modifiers

Add 1-5% WOF of alum to the dye bath for brightened canary yellows or myrobalan for lightfast yellows. 1-3% WOF of iron added to the dye bath will produce earthy olive green. Remember, you can't go back. If you are dyeing several items in one dye bath, you can separate the liquid into different pots, and add modifiers where needed.

1. Place your fabric into the dye pot. Once the fabric is in, slowly begin heating your water to a simmer, about 90 degrees F. Ensure the dye is able to reach every crease or wrinkle within the fabric by gently moving it around. Leave the project in the dye bath for about 45 minutes to an hour.
2. Rinse the dyed fabrics a few times and wash using a pH-neutral liquid detergent, like Dr. Bronner's.
3. Dry your textile away from direct sunlight to avoid the dye fading unevenly.

Tip: Modifiers

Pair with our natural indigo, by over or under-dyeing. Over-dyeing means dipping your dyed fabric into an indigo vat, and under-dyeing refers to dyeing your fabric with indigo before dyeing it with osage orange. Experiment to produce an array of bright leafy and emerald greens.

The final step is to rinse the dyed fabrics and let them dry overnight. Wash using a pH-neutral liquid detergent, like Dr. Bronner's.