

Immersion Dyeing with Procion Dyes

Immersion is submerging the fibre (or fabric) being dyed in the dye bath containing water, a specific amount of dye, and the appropriate chemical assistants for a specific length of time. For smooth, even colour, the dye bath must be stirred frequently. A large enamel or stainless steel container, or plastic bucket can be used for holding the dye bath.

Stirring Fibre Reactive Dye Baths

For even, smooth colour, the fibre should be able to move freely in the dye bath. Any more water in the dye bath will dilute the dyes more than necessary, and decrease the shade and increase the dyeing time. Increasing the volume of the dye bath requires the dye run to be longer for the dye molecules to reach the fibre. If the dye bath is not stirred frequently (every 2 to 5 minutes), the dye and fibre will react unevenly, leaving light and dark patches. To stir fabric, wearing rubber gloves, lift the fibre from the dye bath. Unfold creases, and return the fibre to the bath in a different configuration. If you are after a mottled effect, use less liquid in a smaller container and stir less frequently.

Immersion Dyeing Cellulose Fibres

For 500 grams dry weight of fabric or fibre (3 to 5 square metres of fabric or 3 T-shirts).
Reduce volumes for less fabric

Materials:

- 10-12 litres of warm tap water
- Procion® MX dye (see below)
- 1 1/2 to 3 cups of salt (non-iodized- optional)
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup of Soda Ash
- Synthrapol for rinsing (optional)

Instructions:

- Be sure to wash fabric to remove any dirt, grease or sizing. We suggest using Synthrapol.
- Fill container with warm tap water, add salt and dye in proportions listed below.
- Add the fabric or fibre.
- Stir frequently for 10 to 15 minutes.
- Remove or lift up the fabric.
- Add the soda ash. It helps to dissolve the soda ash in a separate container in a little hot water first. Stir into dye bath.
- Put the fabric back into dye bath and stir frequently for 30 to 60 minutes, depending on the depth of intensity desired.

General amounts for dyeing per 10 litres of water and 500 grams of fabric:

- For very pale shades: 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon dye, 1 1/2 cups salt, 1/4 cup soda ash
- For light shades: 1/2 to 1 teaspoon dye, 1 1/2 cups salt, 1/4 cup soda ash
- For medium shades, most colours: 1 tablespoon dye, 1 1/2 cups salt, 1/4 cup soda ash
- For darker shades: 2 tablespoons dye, 2 cups salt, 1/4 cup soda ash
- For darkest shades: 4 tablespoons dye, 3 cups salt, 1/3 cup soda ash