

TIE DYE INSTRUCTIONS

SQUIRTY BOTTLE TECHNIQUE

Yeooooow it's tie dye'n time... At the end you're going to have a totally unique, sick new towel! I hope you have fun making it and I hope you lovvvve it for years to come.

Below are some instructions for tie dye'n "best practice" but you do you.

Enjoy mate!

Debs x

This technique of tie dyeing enables you to use multiple colours. It's even perfect for single colour tie dyes since you are able to apply the dye precisely where you want it to be. The dyes are mixed with very hot water in a concentrated amount, poured into squirt bottles and then applied to tied fabric to create colourful designs.

Traditional Tie Dye: Pinch, pleat or fold fabric to make a design. Wrap rubber bands tightly around fabric at various points. The rubber bands resist the dye and create white spaces. The more rubber bands you use and the tighter they are wrapped, the more white space there will be.

Swirl: Decide where to place the centre of the spiral. Then position your fingers around the centre point and slowly begin to twist fabric in a spiral direction. Loosely wrap rubber bands around fabric to hold spiral together.

Scrunch: Scrunch a section the fabric and secure with rubber bands. The more tightly you secure the scrunch, the more white space you will see in the final result. Repeat scrunching various sections of the fabric. With each section, vary the amount of fabric scrunched. Continue until the majority of the fabric is scrunched. Now shape the fabric into a ball with more rubber bands.

Stripes: Fold shirt vertically or diagonally, like an accordion or fan, in 2cm to 3cm wide folds. Then wrap with rubber bands every 2cm to 3cm or as desired.

Checks: Accordion pleat fabric in 2cm to 3cm wide folds. To achieve a sharp line, press folds with an iron. Then accordion pleat strip into a square. Wrap a rubber band loosely around square fabric in both directions.

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1. Pre-wash item in warm, soapy water without any fabric softener.
2. Wear gloves to protect hands from #smurfhands
3. Lay damp towel out on a flat surface.
4. Mix entire packet of powdered dye with two cups of hot tap water (or less if you want the colour to be super vibrant).
5. Add 1 tablespoon of salt.
6. Pour into a squirt bottle. Shake well.
7. Repeat for each colour.
8. Place fabric on baking rack with a tray under it. This is very important because it keeps the dye from puddling under the fabric. Squirt each dye colour on fabric as desired.
9. If you are trying to achieve sections of white space, purposely leave certain sections of the fabric white and undyed.
10. After the dye is applied, let the fabric sit for 30 minutes to allow the dye to absorb.
11. To set the dye, do the following while the fabric is still tied up:
12. If you have a microwave (I've never used one, I've already used the sun) wrap the fabric in gladwrap and seal the edges. Place the wrapped fabric on a paper towel in the microwave and heat for 2 minutes. Plastic will puff up, creating a heat chamber that helps bond the dye with the fabric. Once the microwave is done, remove the fabric and open the plastic, letting it cool down.
13. If a microwave is not available or feasible to use wait for a hot sunny day, lay the wrapped fabric out in the sun for an hour.
14. Rinse in cool water until rinse water begins to run clear. This is very important to prevent unabsorbed dye from bleeding into any white areas. If possible, rinse with the fabric bundle sitting flat on the baking rack. If it is held vertically, some of the unabsorbed dye could run into white areas as it is rinsed off.
15. Carefully remove rubber bands with a scissors and unfold the fabric.
16. Wash in cold water with a mild detergent, rinse and dry.

Boom, new towel day!