



Ice Dyeing Basics

Supplies

Powder Dye- I use either Dharma Fiber Reactive Procion Dye or Pro Chemical Fiber Reactive

Gloves

Mask

Synthrapol, Professional Textile Detergent or other soap to launder the fabric

Bucket or plastic bin**

Rack- a cookie cooling rack works well

Measuring spoon or other plastic spoon**

Large spoon to stir soda ash solution**

Soda ash- if you are going to be doing a lot of dyeing you can buy it in bulk for less or pick up the small package of Tulip

Ice

Apron or painting shirt

Fabric- you can buy fabric that is called PFD- prepared for dyeing. I like to buy this as it is ready to go!

If you use other fabric, you must wash it first to remove chemicals.

** DO NOT use spoons, bowls or bins that you will use for food storage or preparation. I mark my equipment for dyeing so I don't get them mixed up!

Step 1

If you are using PFD fabric, you are ready to go! If not, first wash the fabric in Synthrapol, or other laundry soap.

Step 2

Prepare a soda ash solution. Wear gloves and WEAR A MASK when adding the soda ash to the water. Follow the directions on your package but it is usually about 1 cup of soda ash to 1 gallon of water. Mix up the soda ash in the water with a spoon.

Soak your fabric in the soda ash solution for 15 min - 1/2 hour.

Do not skip this step. The soda ash preps the fabric to accept the dye.

Step 3

Place your rack over the plastic bin. You want to have room between the the fabric and the bottom of the bin so your fabric does not sit in the dye solution that will collect as the ice melts. Otherwise you will just have some muddy looking fabric!

Put on your gloves and gently wring out the fabric and then fold or bunch up on top of the rack.



For different looks, you can just bunch it up, pleat it, use elastics or string to create lines... play around! Keep in mind, the more scrunched up the fabric, the less dye that will reach the bottom layers of the fabric.



Step 4

Cover the fabric with a thick layer of ice. The more ice, the more the dye soaks thru the fabric.



Step 5

PUT on your MASK. Gently sprinkle dye on top of the ice. Start with a light hand for the dye. Too much dye and you won't get as much variation.

Then let it sit. I usually let it sit for about 24 hours.

You can cover the bin if you like; I often place plastic over the top just so dust and other debris does not get in the mix.

And so the cat does not stick her nose in it!



Step 6

Once all the ice is melted, put on your gloves again and rinse the fabric in **cold** running water until the water runs clear. Then wash the fabric in **hot** water in the washing machine using Synthrapol and a color catcher sheet.

Then use the fabric in your next project!

Online Resources:

dharma trading.com

prochemicalanddye.net

