



## SCOURING YARN

Scouring yarn is the process of cleaning unwashed yarn. It removes any mill oils, sizings or residues that might resist dyes.

You will need premeasured yarn, either Synthrapol or Dawn dish soap, and soda ash (also known as washing soda). If you don't already have soda ash, Arm and Hammer Washing Soda is often available locally. You will want a large stock pot or canning pot for boiling water, though you don't have to wash your yarn in the pot. A bucket might be needed.

A **SMALL** amount of yarn (what can fit into a pot) can be scoured in a pot on the stove or in a bucket.

- Fill a large pot with water and dissolve a tablespoon of soda ash and a couple drops of Synthrapol soap or Dawn dish soap.
- Add the yarn and heat up the water on the stove.
- Once the yarn reaches a simmer, turn off the stove and bring the yarn to the sink to rinse. (You can let it cool for a bit if you wish).
- Rinse thoroughly before dyeing. You can use the spin cycle on your washer or some other centrifuge to get the excess water out. If you use your washer, **NEVER** set the washer to agitate (or you will have a tangled noodly mess to deal with)!
- If you don't want to cook yarn in your stock pot, you can always boil the water and add it to a strong bucket (hardware store buckets seem to handle boiling water well). Make sure to use a large enough bucket to be able to move your yarn around.

A **LARGE** amount of yarn can be scoured in a washing machine, **IF** your washer can drain and spin without running the agitator. You might need to use a bucket or a hose to add water to the washer without turning it on.

1. Use a stove to boil a stock pot of water to add to the washer. Partially fill your washer up with hot tap water, and use the boiled water to increase the temperature.
2. Add a dash of Synthrapol soap or Dawn dish soap (10-15 drops), and soda ash: roughly 1 Tbsp/lb of yarn. Stir to dissolve.
3. **DO NOT TURN ON WASHER.** Add yarn to the washer. If there's not enough water to fully immerse the yarn with room for a bit of movement, add a little more water. Gently agitate with gloves on/with a long spoon/some sort of stick or thin PVC pipe, then leave to soak for at least 15 minutes. (Time not critical.)
4. Turn the washer to **DRAIN/SPIN CYCLE ONLY.** This will drain the washer and spin out the yarn.
5. Fill with enough warm tap water to cover the yarn. Agitate gently with gloves on, then let sit for at least 5 minutes. (Time not critical.)
6. Drain and spin.
7. Repeat steps 5 and 6 with cool water one more time, or until water runs clear.

When you're done scouring your yarn, gently snap out yarn (straighten yarn). Some yarn can be more fragile or sticky when wet, so be careful not to break your yarn. I find getting the twists and kinks out of yarn while it's wet makes it much easier to work with later.

Wet yarn is ready to be dyed. If it will not be dyed right away, hang to dry.