

Landscape Dyeing Instructions

Hints

100gms (3.5oz) landscapes will dye 1 kilo (2.25 lbs.) of fibre to a 'full shade'.

For paler shades use less. For darker shades use more.

1 heaped teaspoon will dye 50gms / 1.76 oz approximately.

2 heaped teaspoons will dye 100gms / 3.52 oz approximately.

Equipment Needed

To start your dyeing you will need -

1 dyepot which can be heated - stainless steel, aluminium, or enamel.

1 stirrer- wooden, aluminium, or stainless steel.

Rubber gloves.

White vinegar (If you are dyeing silk or to clear the dyebath).

**Have dedicated dyepots, stirrers & microwaves for you dyeing needs rather than using your household cooking utensils.

Method

First wash fibre in warm, soapy water to remove any grease or gum. Rinse clean.

Start your dyebath with enough warm water to generously cover the fibre.

Decide how much dye you will need and dissolve it in hot water.

Add this to dyepot (make sure it is completely dissolved).

If you're dyeing silk, you will need a teaspoon of white vinegar to aid exhaustion of dye.

White vinegar can also be used at the end of your dyeing to help the last of the dye to exhaust onto the fibre.

Place fibre into dyepot, turning gently to distribute dye evenly. Bring dyebath slowly to just below the boil, turning fibre regularly to avoid unevenness (**most importantly in the first 5 to 10 mins**).

Maintain temperature for at least 30 mins. The dye will eventually exhaust onto the fibre.

During this time check that it is completely submerged & give it a gentle stir.

When dyeing time is completed and fibre has reached the colour depth you require, remove from dyebath, and rinse a few times in water.

Squeeze out excess water and if there is still dye coming out, you may need a warm soapy wash as well.

Handy hints to avoid felting

The two things that wool doesn't like are:

1. Too much movement in the dyebath.

2. Extreme changes in temperature.

Avoid too much stirring, just gently turn fleece.

Don't plunge fibre from a boiling dyebath into cold water. Take temperature down slowly in warm water.

Spiral Dyeing with Landscapes

Spiral dyed & multi coloured effects can easily be achieved with any combination of colours from the Landscapes range.

Choosing your colours – Keep in mind that the dyes are going to overlap & mix and by doing so, will produce additional colours. When you select your dyes, consider the colours produced when they mix. For example – Yellow and Red will produce Orange; Yellow and Blue will produce Green; Red and Blue will produce Violet.

You will also need some heavy cling wrap and a designated vegetable steamer.

To Start

Before starting, rinse your fibre in warm water with a little wetting agent to remove any grease or sizing. This will help the dye to penetrate, your aim is to avoid white undyed areas. Squeeze out excess water. Have your steamer ready to use on the stove.

Cover your workspace with a plastic sheet. Lay heavy cling wrap on top of the plastic sheet, overlapping it lengthways in the centre and allowing enough at either end and at the sides to wrap your fibre/yarn. Choose your dye colours.

Using 100mls of very hot water, dissolve 2 teaspoons of each dye powder in separate containers. This is enough to dye 200 to 300 gms of fibre.

Lay fibre in the centre of the cling wrap, flatten it out to no more than 1cm thick. Start at one end and pour a little dye solution onto the fibre, work the colour into the fibre, always running along the length of the hank. When you've worked it right through to the other side, introduce a second colour and work it in as before, overlapping the 2 colours will give you a third combination shade. Work your way along the fibre with the 3rd colour, etc. Make sure there are no white areas by pushing the dye well into the fibre and adding more dye solution if necessary. Avoid using an excess of solution, this will cause the colours to bleed into each other excessively and muddy them.

Repeat your colours for a second time or until you reach the end of the skein. When you've completely covered the fibre in dye, carefully fold in the ends and then the sides of the cling wrap to create a long snug 'sausage'.

Coil it around the inside of the steamer, set it on moderate heat, cover and steam for 20 to 40 mins. Turn off the heat and allow it to sit and cool in the steamer for at least 2 hours or overnight. Rinse fibre in warm water until it runs clear, squeeze out excess water and hang outside to dry.