

# SUN DYES

## FABRIC PAINTS FOR COTTON & SILK

Sun Dyes are a versatile and easy-to-use product for decorating a wide range of materials—not just fabrics! Use them to create unique designs with found objects like leaves, twigs, feathers, and seashells, or cut your own shapes from paper or cardboard. Sun Dyes produce soft, permanent results and are great for kids' projects, embroidery embellishments, quilting, garments, cushions, bed linen, and even wall art. All you need is a still, sunny day—or an infrared lamp—to let the sun work its magic! Simply paint your surface, place your objects on top, and set your piece in direct sunlight to watch as the design develops.

### SUN DYE COLOUR CHART

				
WATTLE	CHAMOMILE	MUSTARD	CITRUS	KANGAROO PAW
				
FLAME RED	GREVILLEA	GALAH	WARATAH	MAGENTA
				
PLUM	MULBERRY	GRAPE	VIOLET	MARINE
				
SKY BLUE	OPAL	INDIGO	FERN	SAGE
				
TARRAGON	LORIKEET	MOSS	ALFALFA	KELP
				
CLAY	TANBARK	NIGHT	SLATE	CURRAWONG
				
WHITE		SUNPEARL	SUNSILVER	SUNGOLD

### TIPS FOR CLEAR & CRISP SUN PRINTS

For the best results when using Sun Dyes, keep these key tips in mind:

- **Fabric Choice Matters** – The weave and weight of your fabric can affect your prints. Tightly woven, even surfaced fabrics tend to produce the sharpest results.
- **Use Flat Objects** – Choose items with broad, flat surfaces to create well-defined prints. Raised or uneven objects may cast shadows leading to blurred edges or not produce a result.
- **Ensure a Smooth Surface** – Lay your fabric on a completely flat surface to prevent distortions. Avoid corrugated cardboard, as its ridges can create uneven contact. For small fabric pieces, try using a chopping board or another sturdy, moveable surface.
- **Layering Colors** – Start with lighter colors first when layering, then build up darker tones. Feel free to experiment to find the effect you like best!
- **Dilution Affects Definition** – You can dilute Sun Dyes for a lighter shades, but keep in mind that less concentrated colors may result in reduced vibrancy and less defined print edges.

## HOW TO MAKE SIMPLE HELIOGRAPHIC IMAGES

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**SET UP :** Ideally you would have two areas, a paint station in the shade or inside and a flat area in the sun for exposing and easily be able to move between the two. Use a waterproof table cloth if needed.

**SUPPLIES :**

- Sun Dyes
- A variety of paint brushes and or sponges.
- Fabric/s.
- Water for washing up.
- Tape or weights to keep your fabric and or objects from flying away
- A flat surface to put your fabrics on, a thick box cut up is ideal.
- Objects to make shapes. Some examples are: flat leaves and plant matter, cardboard shapes, toys, coins or buttons - objects that will have a relatively high flat surface area for their shape are ideal.

**METHOD :**

- Secure your fabric to a flat surface with some tape, bulldog clips or weights.
- While in the shade, apply your Sun Dye to your fabric. You can use more than one colour!
- Lay your objects on top of the wet Sun Dye and move your assemblage into the sun and leave to dry. Drying time will depend on the weather, but it can be as quick as 10 minutes in the Summer sun!
- When ready, carefully remove your objects and wonder at your silhouettes made on the fabric.
- Iron the back side of the fabric for 2 - 3 minutes, as hot as the fabric will allow, to set the colour.
- Allow to sit for 24 hours and rinse well in warm water.
- Once dry your colour is permanent and wash fast.

## FAQ'S

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**Q: What if I don't want to use Sun Dyes in the sun? Will they still work?**

**A:** Yes! Sun Dyes can be used as a fabric paint (and more) even without sunlight. When applied as a fabric paint, they will produce a strong, even colour. However, to achieve their signature sun-developed effects, you'll need to place objects on the painted fabric and let it dry in direct sunlight. The areas covered by objects will appear lighter as the pigment moves outward toward the light, creating a beautiful "ghost image" effect.

**Q: What can I use Sun Dyes on?**

**A:** Sun Dyes are one of the most versatile products we offer! They can be used on a wide range of porous surfaces, including fabric, fibre, wood, stone, and paper, and may also stain some plastics. With incredible lightfastness, Sun Dyes are a fantastic choice for flags, outdoor furniture, and soft furnishings. They're also ideal for oddly shaped items that can't be steamed or immersed in a dye bath. Plus, they can even be airbrushed for unique effects!

**Q: How do I make my own colours, and what is the importance of Reducer?**

**A:** Sun Dyes are highly pigmented and fully intermixable, allowing you to create an endless range of custom colours!

When mixing your own colours, start with small amounts and keep track of your recipes so you can replicate them later. If you're new to colour mixing, we recommend beginning with small batches and scaling up as needed. For accuracy, you can use 3ml or 5ml pipettes, or if you prefer a more intuitive approach, you can mix by eye.

To create paler shades, you can dilute your colour using either water or Sun Dye Reducer:

**For slightly lighter shades:** water can be used, however, once you are diluting with 30-40% water, you may need to switch to *Sun Dye Reducer* to continue lightening your shade effectively.

**For very light or pastel shades:** you'll need to use *Sun Dye Reducer* to ensure the dye remains stable and continues to bind properly to your surface. A good starting point for pastels is 5% Sun Dye to 95% Reducer.