



DYEING INSTRUCTIONS

Dyeing with plant extracts

Dye-plant extracts *Couleurs de Plantes*® will provide you a large range of beautiful shades on natural fibres (silk, wool, linen, hemp, cotton, bamboo...) and can also be used with some synthetic fibres (polyamide...).

Dyeing with natural dyes (except for indigos – different process) needs a step of mordenting consisting in a preliminary treatment with a metallic salt that will allow a good fixation of the natural dye on the fibre. If this is your first dye bath, we recommend to start with potassium alum - the most known of mordents. You will then experience other mordents.

The results will depend on the fibre, on the nature and quantity of dye and mordent used. Your experience in natural dyes will allow you to create your own recipes with infinite shades.

Instructions and advices

Use preferably **stainless steel or enamel** house ware or tanks, large enough to contain an important volume of water (15-20 L x WOF (Weight Of Fiber)); wear gloves.

Water quality is also important (especially for mordenting). Avoid hard water. You can use your tap water with 1-2 tea spoons of white vinegar / L but soft water, rain water or demineralised water will provide you better results with, especially for cellulosic fibres.

1. Weigh dry fibres before rinsing to determine WOF, then calculate the mordent and dye extracts necessary from the table below;
2. **Fibres must be rinsed** in warm water (40-50°C) with soap **prior to dyebath**. For cellulosic fibres (cotton, linen, hemp) add a few crystals of soda or potash;
3. **Mordenting step : use preferably distilled water** or tap water with vinegar (see above). Dilute the mordent into mild water (40°C), then immerse the fibres;
4. Heat to 80°C for 45 min while stirring. Allow fibres to **cool into the bath**;
5. Remove fibres from mordenting bath and rinse them with plenty of cold water;
6. **Dyeing step** : Dilute the dye extract into mild water (40°C), pour into the dyebath, then immerse mordented wet fibres;
7. Heat to 80°C for 45 min while stirring. Allow fibres to **cool into the bath**;
8. Remove dyed fibres from bath, rinse with mild water, leave them drying.

Indicative quantities to dye 1 Kg fibre.

	Fibre	Mordent	Quantity of mordent	Quantity of dye extract*	Shade
See also our shade card	Wool, silk, polyamide	Alum, ferrous sulfate, copper sulfate...	10 - 50 g	10-50 g	Intense
				10 g or less	Light
	Cotton, linen, hemp	Alum + sodium carbonate **	30 - 50 g	30 à 50 g	Intense
		ferrous sulfate, copper sulfate...		30 g or less	Light

* Note : chlorophyllin and cochineal extracts are more concentrated. Given quantities can be divided twice.

** Add 10 to 20 g of sodium carbonate in the mordenting bath. **Only with alum mordent.**

Washing and care of your natural dyed textiles

A few precautions in order to protect the natural colors of your textiles :

Wash your natural dyed textiles at low temperature (40°C maximum).

Avoid washing powders (they contain bleaching agents that will quickly fade your colors) and bleach.

Prefer washing with natural soap, soap nuts (without bleaching agent sometimes recommended!), washing ball or washing liquid (most of them are without bleaching agents).

Dry your textile away from direct sun.

IMPORTANT

Our products are only intended for textile dyeing or decorative products - Do not use for food - Keep away from Childs