



TEXTILE DYEING WITH NATURAL INDIGO

For textile, wood or paper dyeing...

Dyeing instruction

The natural Indigo from *Couleurs de Plantes*® produces magnificent blues on natural fibers (silk, wool, linen, hemp, cotton, bamboo...) as well as on certain synthetic fibers (polyamide...). Indigo dyeing differs from mordant dyeing. It requires a **reduction step** to solubilize the pigment. The textile to be dyed is immersed in this reduced indigo solution, and upon removal, exposure to air reveals the blue color (**oxidation step**). The shade obtained will depend on the fiber, the dosages used, and your expertise.

How to proceed ?

Choose large stainless steel or enamel containers that can hold a sufficient volume of water to immerse your fibers. Be careful, indigo will stain your containers.

The reduction/oxidation processes involve chemicals that must be handled with care (iron sulfate, lime). Wear gloves and safety glasses when handling these chemicals. Work in a well-ventilated space, and if possible, wear a mask.

1. Weigh the dry fibers before rinsing them, this recipe allows you to dye about 50g of textile fibers
2. Prepare an indigo stock solution

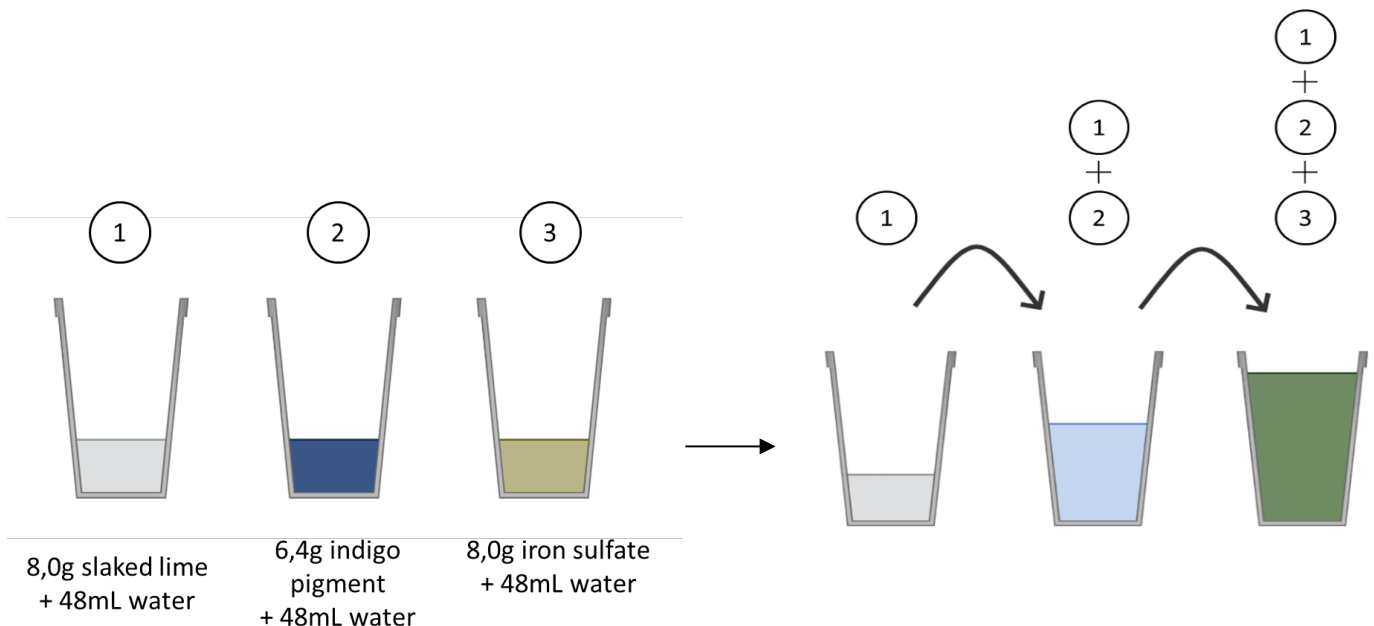
Weigh in 3 separate containers 8.0 g of slaked lime (or calcium hydroxide or CL90S; note that old or moisture-exposed lime will not allow effective reduction – Container No.1), 6.4 g of indigo pigment (Container No.2), and 8.0 g of iron sulfate (Container No.3), then add 48 mL of water at 70°C to each container.

Mix the contents of each container to obtain homogeneous solutions.

Pour the contents of Container 1 into Container 2, stir.

Pour the 1+2 mixture into Container 3, stir the contents of the last container; the solution should be slightly thick and green/yellow in color.

Let it sit for 6 hours. This solution forms the stock vat.



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3. Dyeing vat preparation

Put 1,8L at 30°C of water in a container.

Pour the stock vat (= 1+2+3 mixture) in this water. Stir forming a whirlpool. Let the vat rest for at least 12h while maintaining the temperature at 25-27°C.

After 12h, stir again in the same way. Let it settle for 1h30. The vat is ready for dyeing.

4. Dyeing in the vat :

For dyeing, completely immerse the fiber in the vat without forming bubbles and without stirring the bottom of the vat.

Dip the fibers multiple times in order to achieve deeper blues, for example:

- Dip the humid fibers for 30 seconds, take them out of the vat
- Oxidize fibers in the open air for a few minutes
- Rinse out with water and squeeze out excess water
- Dip the humid fibers for 2 minutes, take them out of the vat
- Oxidize fibers in the open air for a few minutes
- Rinse out with water and squeeze out excess water
- Dip the humid fibers for 3 minutes, take them out of the vat
- Oxidize fibers in the open air for a few minutes

When the hue of blue is to your liking, rinse out the fibers and dip them for 1h in a bath of water at pH 4 (adjust with acetic acid or white vinegar). Rinse the fiber with fresh water.

Care of the natural dyes

Wash at 40°C maximum.

Avoid powder detergent (which contain whitening agents which will alter the color) and bleach. You can wash with natural soap, such as Savon de Marseille, with soapnut soap (without whitening agent), with laundry balls or liquid detergent.

Dry the piece protected from direct sunlight.

IMPORTANT

Our dyeing extracts and mordants are to be used for dyeing and decoration – Do not swallow – Keep away from children
Container used must not be used for cooking purposes afterward