

Please read the following information on the different types of dyes, as well as general guidelines and how to prepare your fiber.

Fiber Reactive Dyes:

Procion (fiber reactive dye) is for use on cellulose fibers - cotton, linen, tencel, etc. Although it can be used on silk with some success, results can be unpredictable. It is not intended for use on wool.

PHG's dye day leaders will provide washing soda baths and dye baths so that participants will not need to mix anything. Prepared fibers should be placed in the washing soda bath for a few minutes, then into the dye bath. However, participants are asked to let the leader(s) know when dyes are getting exhausted (dyes will start to weaken) so that new baths can be mixed. Questions? Contact Sue Walsh, sugar2311@comcast.net

Natural Dyes:

Anyone who is interested in dyeing with natural dyes for the guild dye play day in January should prepare their fibers (fleece, yarn, or fabric) in advance if possible. Since we have plenty of time, it's possible to mordant during the event (depending on how long you intend to be there!), but you should definitely scour your fibers in advance.

Judilee will have a couple of small (5-gal bucket size) natural indigo vats available (fruit reduction vats) and at least one plant-based mordant dye bath. Here are some things to consider: As a general rule, natural dyes favor natural fibers, especially protein fibers (wool and silk).

Cellulose fibers will take color, but the mordanting process is more complicated and the colors are generally lighter.

The obvious exception is indigo, which gives the best color to cotton and other cellulose fibers (linen, hemp, ramie, rayon). Indigo will also dye silk (and wool if the pH is not too high). Bring any clamps and resists you want to use (Judilee will have a few extras). If you want to do a stitch resist for the indigo, you could do that in advance or sew a simple pattern on-site.

Bring any mordant or dye you want to try (remember that there will be indigo and one plant-mordant dye bath, but you don't get to choose that one).

Questions? Please contact Judilee jfitchugh@ocac.edu for clarification.

General guidelines for all participants:

OCAC will have an assortment of pots and pans, tables, tarps, and other equipment that can be used for dye projects, plus water and sinks for rinsing. We'll have several pots available or you can bring your own if you want control of your own dye. There are six burners available, so you may have to take turns.

Participants are expected to bring their own fibers and personal protection gear such as vinyl gloves, apron and appropriate attire/shoes. Please limit the amount of fiber to no more than a pound unless arranged in advance with the leader(s). In addition, the participant is responsible for tagging, marking, or somehow identifying his or her fiber.

All fibers should be washed so that they are free of debris and oils that would cause problems with dyeing. You may want to use Synthrapol (available at places that sell tie-dye materials, such as art stores and Fabric Depot), but good results can be achieved with a good washing and rinse.

(Example: Wash fiber in a pot of water with a little blue Dawn dish soap, heated til steaming for an hour. Cool in the pot or rinse in same temp water.) Fiber can be washed and rinsed the night before and stored in a plastic bag to keep damp, or even prepared well in advance and placed damp in a plastic bag then stored in the freezer until ready to dye.

Skeins and warp-chains should be tied with many loose ties to allow for the fibers to move in the dye bath. All fiber for dyeing should be tagged or marked somehow to identify the owner before it goes into the baths.

Participants should wait until everyone has had a chance to get a "true color" from a dye bath before any mixing or space-dyed effects are tried.

Everyone should help with clean-up before leaving.

Bring plastic bags to take wet fibers home. Also bring a plastic bucket with a tight-fitting lid if you want to take some dye home when we've finished.