

Dyeing with Gaywool!

Gaywool Dyes are simple, complete, quick and fun.

This dye is formulated specifically for raw or spun wool. The formulation includes the mordant and dyebath acidifier and thus all that is necessary to produce true to type color fast dyeing. Gaywool dyes are also excellent on wool, cashmere, mohair, silk, nylon and fur (but not on other synthetic fibers) and for re-dyeing light colored manufactured garments.

INSTRUCTIONS

- All dyeing of handspun wool should be done in skeins tied loosely in at least 4 places. It is also essential that they have been washed in a normal laundry detergent sufficiently to remove all trace of greasiness.
- You need a container suitable for heating, and large enough to cover the wool with water. The exact quantity of water is not important but should be sufficient that it is easy to turn the wool over while dyeing is taking place. For every (1) skein or 108 gr of wool, take one (1) LEVEL PLASTIC CAPFUL of dyestuff, dissolve in a small quantity of hot water (eg. 1 or 2 cupfuls) and add to the dyebath.
- Heat the dyebath to boiling. Take the skeins of wool and wet in warm water with a little kitchen detergent before putting in dyebath. Keep dyebath on or near boiling for approximately 30 minutes.

Please note:

80% of the dyeing reaction takes place in the first four (4) minutes, consequently it is most important to gently turn the wool over at regular intervals or lift wool clear with a wooden spoon, drain liquid slightly, and replace; wool then takes up a new mixture of water and dye and this helps to keep the dyeing even.

Remove wool, rinse thoroughly in warm water, wring and hang to dry.

RAINBOW DYEING WITH GAYWOOL DYES

- Raw fleece may be dyed washed or unwashed. Place fleece in container, fill with water 3/4 the way up the wool (do not cover the wool, or the dyes will run together). While bringing the water up to boiling point sprinkle the dyes at random over the fleece using compatible colors; gently poke the fleece into the water, do not stir; boil for approximately 30 minutes. Several colors can be used together eg. Raspberry and Logwood, Cornflower and Indigo, or just one color using different strengths.
- WOOL IN HANKS can be dyed using the above directions.
- For more muted colors, instead of sprinkling the powder, dilute the powder in boiling water first. Pour or spray.

Note: Keep water level even, add more water if necessary by pouring down the side of the pan; make sure the wool does not catch on the bottom.

RAINBOW DYEING IN THE OVEN OR MICROWAVE

Balls of wool may be wet in warm water with a little detergent, and "injected" with a syringe filled with dye powder and water (approximately 1 capful or less of dye powder to 108gr of wool). Cover with film of plastic and place in microwave for 8 minutes on high or in an oven bag and in the oven on medium for 20 minutes.

COLDWATER DYEING WITH GAYWOOL

For large amounts of rainbow dyeing, cold water dyeing is easy to do outside.

RAW WOOL, HANKS, SHEEPSKINS, etc., can all be done by this method. Wet wool, for every litre (approximately 1 quart) of water needed, you will have to add 40gr (1.33 oz) of UREA (nitrogen) and 6.5 cc (approximately 1 ¼ to 1 ½ teaspoons) Acetic Acid (white vinegar). Mix the desired dye powder with hot water, for example three colors and divide your litre of liquid between them, then simply dip hanks, paint strands (over a log for example) or pour dye so it runs down the hank, or spray (with a spray bottle), wring out excess if very wet, (for sheepskins, if you want the same color all over, work dye and liquid into skin to saturation point with your gloved hands). After wringing out excess, simply cover with plastic and roll up and leave for 24 hours, less time in summer. After this time, rinse out excess dye and dry.

Safety Instructions

Always be careful with boiling water, wear gloves and avoid breathing fumes when handling chemicals, especially Urea. And have lots of fun...