



Natural dying wool and cotton at Botton Village 2020



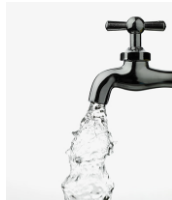


Preparing the wool - scouring

The fleece, wool or cotton will need to be 'scoured' before mordanting or dying. Scouring is like hand washing but much more gentle. You will need...



gloves



warm
water



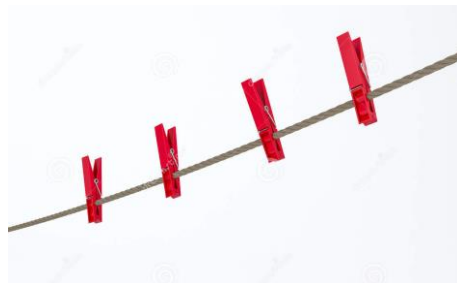
large
aluminium



washing up
liquid



Put the pan near the sink so you don't need to lift it. Fill the pan $\frac{3}{4}$ full with warm water and a squirt of washing up liquid. Add the fleece or yarn and put it under the water with your hands. Very gently move the wool around for a couple of minutes. Take the fleece/yarn out, rinse under the tap and squeeze out the water. Hang to dry.



Mordant – rhubarb

A mordant helps to make the colour stick to the wool - we used rhubarb leaf which is the most natural one - the LEAVES of rhubarb are poisonous so you must wear gloves and never try to eat them - you need to use the mordant before dying the wool



We cut off the stem of the rhubarb then put the leaves in a large aluminium pan filled $\frac{3}{4}$ full with water. We put it onto the stove to SIMMER for an ONE HOUR - Make sure you have a window open or the extractor fan on.

The stems of the rhubarb are safe to eat so you could make a crumble 😊

Mordanting the fleece or yarn

When the mordant has cooled down add the scoured fleece or yarn and while it is cold push it under the liquid. Mark is carefully doing this with a knife you could use a stick or an old wooden spoon.

Put the pan on the stove with the lid on and simmer for one hour. Allow to cool then drain off the liquid and squeeze out the fleece or yarn. Do NOT rinse.





Dye – for wool and cotton

These are some of the easy dyes to either pick or buy...

Daffodils -

needs a mordant



Dandelions -

needs a mordant



Onion skins - no mordant



Turmeric powder - no mordant





Dying with daffodils

Before collecting daffodils please check with the person who owns the garden that you can pick them.

We collected daffodils that had started to fade and go dry. We picked them in our exercise time, brought them back to studio and after removing the stems, Howard and William put the flowers into half a pan of water. We put the pan on the stove and simmered them for one hour then left them over night to soak.





Dying the fleece

The next morning, Mark and Jane removed the daffodils from the liquid leaving the water with the dye in the pan. We then added the fleece, put the lid on and simmered on the stove for 2 hours.



We remembered to open the window so there was no steam/fumes from the dye. When the pan had cooled we drained the liquid off and dried the fleece.





Using the fleece - felting

Jane is carding our sheep fleece here. On the table you can see our dyed fleece. We decided to make some children's slippers. Martin is felting them in the picture.





Our felted daffodil slippers

After lots of hard work we were really pleased with the result!!!! Hope you like them too. Now you know what to do why don't you have a go yourselves. GOOD LUCK





Tie dye T shirt

Up-cycle an old T shirt using natural dyes



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Tie dye T shirt – turmeric

Turmeric is a good alternative for making a very safe and simple dye. You can buy the spice in most supermarkets or our community shops. We filled our dying pan half full with water and Howard put in a jar of Turmeric. We simmered it for half an hour.





Preparing the T shirt

We found an old white 100% cotton T shirt for our tie dye. Will cut some strips of old fabric for the ties although you can use rubber bands. Mark collected some stones and we wrapped parts of the T shirt around the stones and tied them tight with the fabric strips.





Dying the T shirt

Martin put the tied T shirt in the pan and made sure it was covered with the Turmeric dye. We simmered it for an hour then Jane carefully removed it from the pan, squeezed out the liquid and rinsed it under the tap. Mark removed the ties.





What a result!!!

The team are feeling very proud!
Hope you have fun making one too.

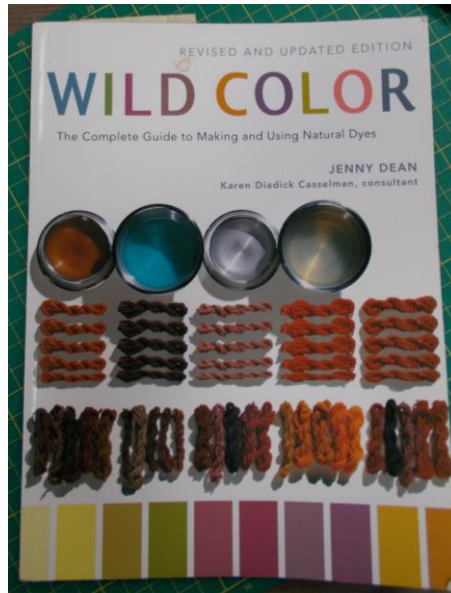


Information on natural dying

There is lots of information in books, magazines or online about natural dying. This is the book we have been using - its got lots of good tips, pictures and examples of the colours you can achieve. This website it good for lots of ideas for using flowers and dyes.

Book by Jenny Dean

Website by India Flint



www.indiaflint.com