

SOLAR DYEING WITH CUSHING'S PERFECTION DIRECT CELLULOSE DYES

By Joan Ruane www.cottonspinning.com spincotton@yahoo.com Tucson, Arizona

SOLAR DYEING *See shortcuts at the bottom of the page

Need:

2 oz of cotton fiber (lint or sliver)
Enamel or stainless-steel pot/ stove
Dawn or something similar
1 Gallon glass jar (plastic jar will work)
Cushing's Perfection Direct Dyes for cellulose fibers
Salt
Water
Bucket or pail
Steamer

Instructions:

1. Scour the lint or sliver: simmer for 20 minutes
2. Drain out the water
3. Mix 1 tsp of salt in the gallon jar with 1/4 tsp. of Cushing Perfection Direct Dye
4. Pour over about 3/4 cup of boiling water to resolve the salt and dye
5. Fill the jar about one half full of tap water
6. Put the scoured lint or sliver in the jar with the dye.
7. Set it in the sun for a day or even two if you are too busy to get back to it!
8. Drain off the dye water and squeeze out the excess water and place it in a steamer for 20 minutes to set the dye
9. Rinse the dyed fiber in a pail of water with a 1/4th cup of salt dissolved in it.
10. Hang it up to dry or lay lint on a screen until almost dry and then toss it in a dryer on high without a bag for 15 to 20 minutes.

**Short cuts if you are adventurous: the fiber might have some light spot in it when finished*

1. In the morning, don't scour the lint or sliver, just put it into the prepared jar with the dye, salt and water. Then squirt a little Dawn on top of the lint and poke it down into the liquid.
2. Since I live in HOT Arizona where the jar sitting in the sun gets VERY HOT, that takes care of the heat to set the dye but most locations you need to steam the dyed fiber.
3. If unsure that there was enough heat to set the dye, squeeze out the extra dye water and put the fiber into a plastic bag, seal it and set it on a dark surface in direct sunlight until it steams for about an hour. You can see steam forming in the bag.
4. Remove dyed lint from the plastic bag and rinse in water with a little salt.
5. Don't forget to squeeze out excess water, let it almost dry in the sun, tease the lint and toss it in the dryer loosely without a bag.

Not pots, no stove, no timing, just let the sun do the work!!

