

Prepping Your Fabric

If your fabric is new, you will need to wash it like normal, with whatever soap you are used to using at home. You do not need to dry it. After it comes out of the wash you can move on to prepping it with your fixative.

Natural dyes have a hard time binding to fabric, so you have to prep your fabric with a natural fixative to make sure that your colors stay brighter longer, even after washing. We have found that salt is best for fruit dyes and vinegar is best for vegetable/plant dyes. The proportions for your fixative mixture can be found below.

- Salt fixative (for fruit dyes) - 1/4 cup salt and 4 cups water (multiply as needed)
- Vinegar fixative (for veg/plant dyes) - 1 cup vinegar and 4 cups water (multiply as needed)

Your fabric should be boiled for about 1 hour before using the vinegar fixative combination since we will be dyeing with vegetables/plants in our workshop. After you can rinse your fabric with cool water. The fabric needs to be wet when you add your dye also, so if you prep your fabric too soon before the workshop, you may need to wet it again.

We recommend following all of these steps for the best results! We look forward to seeing you during our first at-home workshop!

Supply List for the Workshop

- 1 Head - Purple Cabbage
- 2 Tbs - Baking Soda
- 2 Tbs - Turmeric
- Teabags and/or Coffee
- 1 C - Vinegar
- Water
- Rubber Bands
- 2 to 3 kitchen pots and stove burners
- Cloth Scarf and/or Kitchen Towel size (white or off-white wool, linen or cotton)
- Old towels to clean up any spills or messes
- Gloves (recommend but optional)
- Apron (recommend but optional)