

## ASHFORD WOOL DYES

### Cold Method

Rust, Brown, Green, Yellow, Scarlet, Hot Pink, Purple, Teal, Blue, Navy Blue, Black

This is an exciting way to apply the dye directly to your yarn. Using a paint brush we can paint original colour combinations onto the hank of yarn.

#### You will need:

Polycell paste, Urea  
Rubber or plastic gloves  
An Apron

Sticks for stirring x 4  
Jar (about 1 litre)  
Sealed container (250ml) x3  
Small container x 3

Measuring cup  
Old dry towel  
Pastry brush x3  
Glad wrap / Cling film

Dishwashing liquid  
White vinegar  
Mentholated spirits  
(rubbing alcohol)

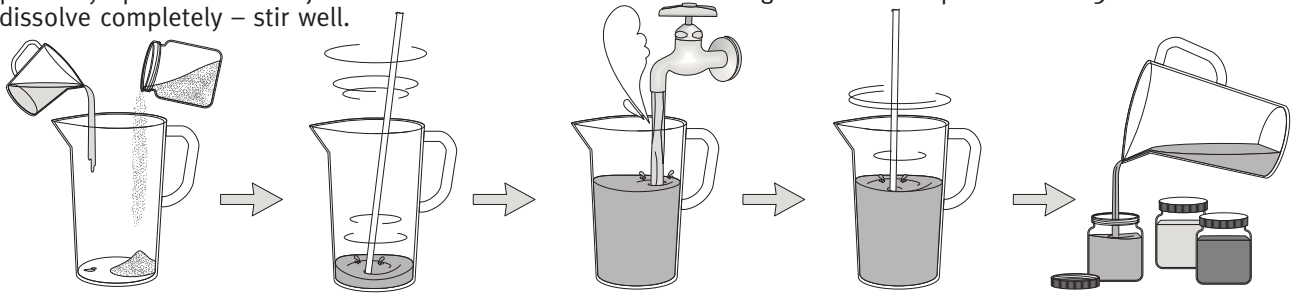
#### Facts

The dye powder is dissolved in the water. We need to thicken this liquid to a consistency that will flow onto the yarn without running. The thickening medium is called a Padding Mixture. We include Polycell wallpaper paste as the thickener in our kits. This contains sodium alginate which smells in water, this does not affect the wool and washes out easily. You can source sodium alginate or try a local wallpaper paste. Use one that does not contain fungicide. The amount of thickener will vary according to what brand you use. The padding mix and dye liquid can be kept for months in a cool place or refrigerator, make sure the lid of the container is firmly in place. Label it well for safety reasons. Using a thickener gives more control, ensuring more accurate results however; painting or spraying the dyes onto the fibre does not require a thickener.

#### Preparation

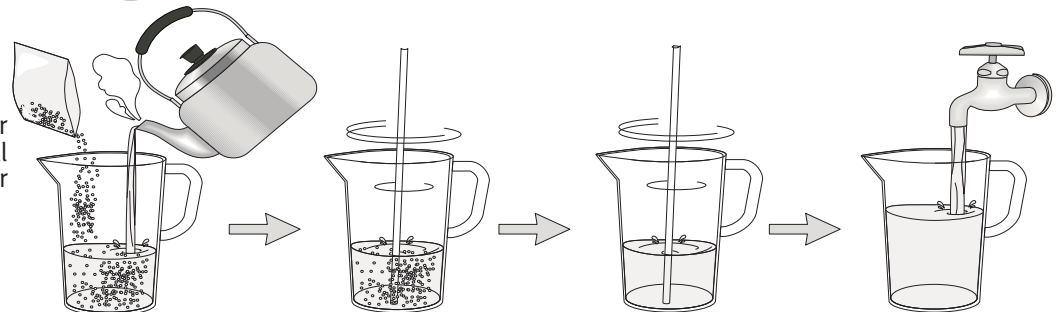
##### 1. The Dye Solution – 3 Colours

Put 2gm packs dye powder in each jar – add a little cold water to dissolve granules into a paste – then 500ml of warm water to dissolve completely – stir well.

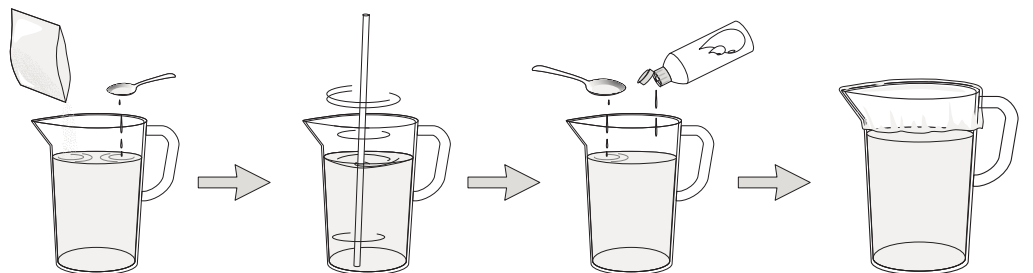


##### 2. Padding Mixture 500ml

Place 500ml urea into a jar- pour 250ml of boiling water – stir well until dissolved – add cold water to make 500ml



3. Add 1 teaspoon of mentholated spirits – sprinkle 1 + 1/2 polycell paste into the mixture stirring vigorously - add 2 drops of dish washing liquid – add 1 tablespoon of white vinegar. Leave for 30 minute for mixture to thicken. Seal with glad wrap until needed. **HINT:** If there are lumps in the mixture put the mixture through a sieve.

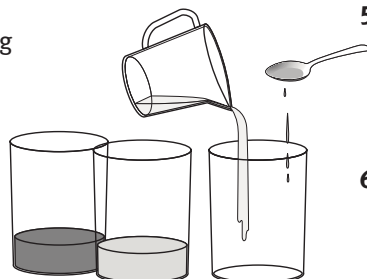


4. Soak the hanks of yarn in warm water with 2 drops of dish washing liquid.



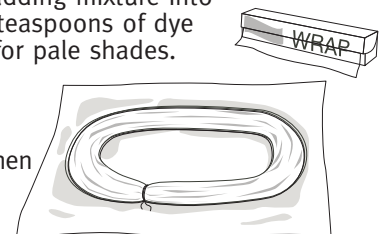
##### 5. Add dye to Padding mixture

Pour about 50mls of padding mixture into a container - add 1 - 2 teaspoons of dye solution. Add less dye for pale shades.

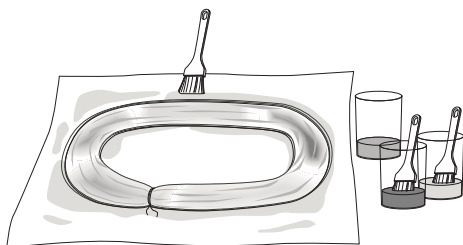


##### 6. Ready to Paint

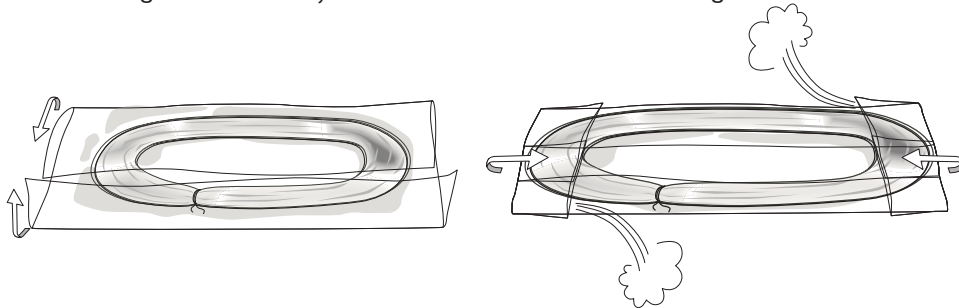
Towel dry hank of yarn then lay onto cling film.



7. Paint your design on the yarn.



8. Fold the cling film over the yarn then seal the ends of the cling film to exclude air.



#### 9. To Set Dye

Some form of heat is necessary. Place your dyed hank in a sunny room on a window sill or in the hot water cupboard. Takes approximately 24 – 48 hours. **HINT** : Winter time Oven Method - Slit open an oven bag. Paint the yarn and fold in the bag to seal. Place in the oven for 1/2 an hour at 100 degrees C.

#### 10. Washing

Soak hank in cold water for 10 minutes - wash the hank gently two or three times in warm water and detergent - rinse in warm water - Do not dry in direct sunlight.

## Hot Method

Rust, Brown, Green, Yellow, Scarlet, Hot Pink, Purple, Teal, Blue, Navy Blue, Black

#### You will need:

Rubber or plastic gloves  
An Apron  
Dye pot which can be heated  
White vinegar

10gm of dye powder with 10 tablespoons of white vinegar will dye 1kg of wool to full shade. For smaller quantities one level teaspoon of dye powder with two tablespoons of white vinegar will dye 200gm of wool. For a lighter colour add less dye powder.

1. In a sink or basin thoroughly “wet” wool, soaking it in warm water containing 1/4 teaspoon of dish detergent for 20 minutes.
2. Fill dye pot with water. The level of water should be enough to cover wool and also allow for circulation.
3. Mix the dye powder to a paste in a small container with a little cold water. Then add sufficient warm water to dissolve it. Add this dye concentrate to the water in the dye pot.
4. Add 2 tablespoons of white vinegar to the dye pot for every 200gm of wool and stir.
5. Add the wool to the liquid in the dye pot. Turn gently so the wool soaks up dye evenly.
6. Slowly raise the temperature of the dyepot liquid to boiling point. Turn wool gently from time to time to avoid uneven colour.
7. Simmer for 30 – 40 minutes or until the water is clear. Note: the water may not become clear if you use too much dye powder or if there is too much grease left in the wool.
8. If the dye liquid remains highly coloured, add a little extra white vinegar five minutes before the end of dyeing.
9. Allow the dye bath to cool before handling.
10. Remove the wool from the dye bath. Rinse in cool water and dry.

**Note:** When dyeing coloured wool or fabric results will be different from colour charts. Before you throw away the dye bath liquid add 1 – 2 teaspoons of baking soda to neutralize the acid in the water.

#### For your safety:

- 1) Keep dye containers tightly closed and out of children's reach.
- 2) Label all dyes and solutions.
- 3) Wear rubber or plastic gloves.
- 4) Wear dust mask when handling dry dye powder.
- 5) Keep dye pots and utensils for dyeing only.
- 6) Avoid breathing fumes.
- 7) Cover all surfaces.

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