

Fiber Reactive Dye - General Information

VERSATILE: Fiber Reactive dyes are perfect for all natural fibers: cotton, viscose rayon, wool and silk - even wood and paper. They will not dye synthetics. They can be used as a vat dye, to paint with, or sprayed, splattered or squirted on, as a dip - whatever. The best for tie-dye.

TESTED: They have been in use around the world since 1956 and we have been selling them ourselves since 1969. If you are wearing cotton clothing there is a good chance that it was dyed or printed with Procion dyes since the dyes are widely used in industry. It is also the dye that is most widely used by professional tie-dyers.

BRILLIANT COLORS: The intensity of the colors can be made to range from light pastel to deep vibrant, almost neon colors. You control the intensity.

EASY TO USE: Cold (warm) water, no heating, use a plastic pail or a washing machine. On the following pages are instructions for some of the many methods of using the dye. As you will see, it's very easy to use - there's a way to use it to suit almost any situation. In addition, you can use our other dyes and paints with Fiber Reactives on the same project for fabulous effects.

COLORFAST: Fiber Reactive dye will not wash out - the molecules of the dye combine with the molecules of the fabric to create a permanent bond - the color becomes part of the fabric.

ECONOMICAL: These are the most economical of all our dyes to use. This is a powdered, highly concentrated dye which you add to water by the teaspoon. A 2 oz. package of a typical color can dye more than 10 T-Shirts.

STORAGE: If you store the powdered dyes in a closed container in a cool, dry place, they will remain usable for several years although gradually weaker. Once mixed with water, they should be used within a couple of weeks. After that, they produce less brilliant colors.

SAFE: Fiber Reactive dyes are considered relatively non-toxic, but, as when using any dye or chemical, use common sense. It is a fine powder and repeated inhalation of the dye powder can cause an allergic reaction in some people. Therefore, avoid continued breathing in of the dust by wearing a dust mask and providing proper ventilation. Some colors contain faint traces of Formaldehyde and/or copper which in California requires a special warning label. Although the dyes are not absorbed through the skin, you should wear rubber gloves. Dye stains on your skin can be removed easily with Reduran hand cream which we sell. Keep out of your eyes. Do not eat the dye.

Supervise children and pets - there is no telling what they might do. We know of no specific risks, but pregnant and nursing women need to be particularly careful with all chemicals. Best to discuss the matter with your doctor first.

CLEANING UP: Clean tools, buckets and washing machines with soap and water. You can add a little chlorine bleach if you like. Clean your skin with Reduran hand cleaning cream, it's the easiest way to remove stains.

DISPOSAL: Fiber Reactive dyes do not require any special disposal. You can safely pour them down the drain.

One environmental consideration is that if you have added Soda Ash to your dyebath, then it's alkaline (high pH) and can be neutralized by the addition of a little white vinegar (low pH). If you used vinegar or acidic acid in your dyebath, you can add some Soda Ash to neutralize the acid.

Highly acidic or alkaline waste water maybe could upset the balance in a septic tank. We have pH test paper you can use to test the pH before flushing it down the drain.