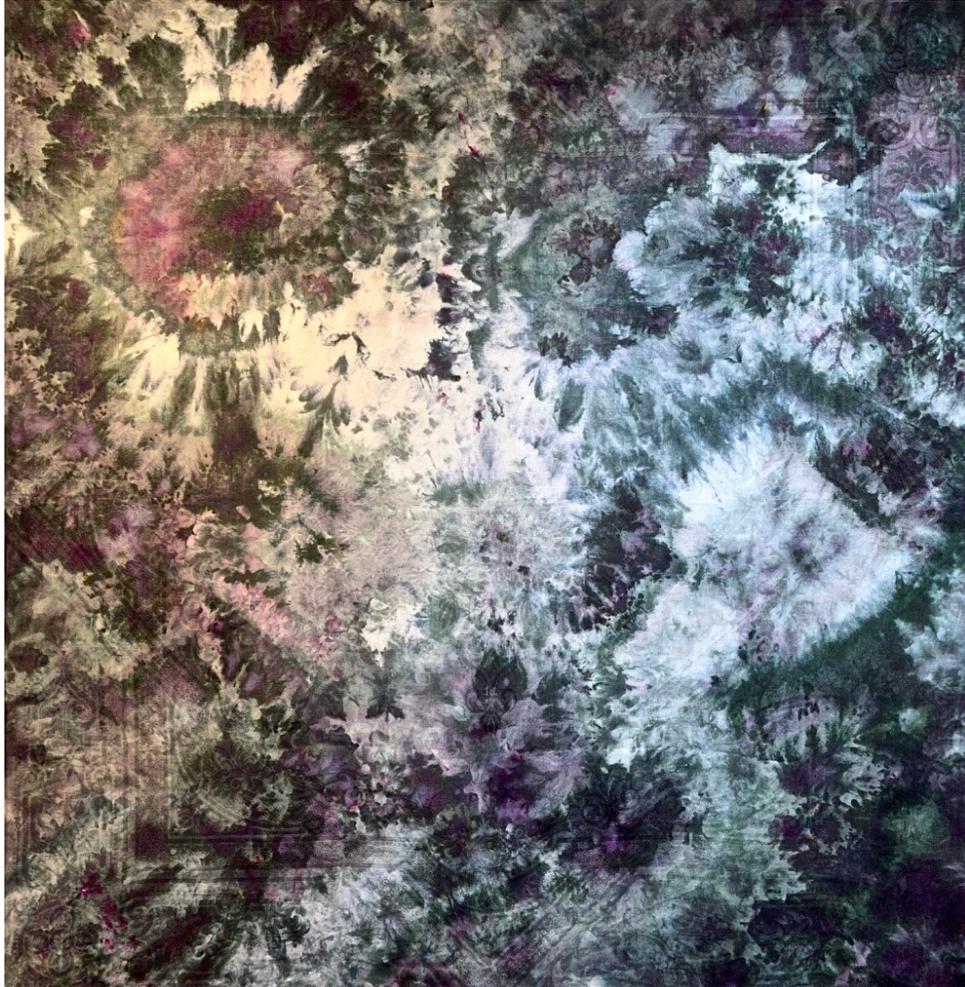

ICE DYEING

Process Instructions



The unexpected results achieved on fabric with Ice Dyeing is what drew me to the process. Ice dyeing creates beautiful, random, definitive 'blooms' during a slow process of dye particles liquifying, and moving along the fabric as the ice melts. Manipulating the fabric adds unforeseen patterns, textures, and vibrant combinations of gorgeous color.

~ Gwen Hendrix

Damask Tablecloth - Ice
Dyed with Cotton Black
Procion Dye

Prep for Ice Dyeing

Supplies for Set Up

- Table/Workspace - large enough to hold supplies & to manipulate fabric prior to dyeing
- Supplies:
 - Soda Ash - activates and fixes Procion dye to fabric
 - Cotton Towels - or fabric of your choosing; pre-washed**
 - Procion Dyes - in various colors
 - Plastic forks — enough for each dye color
 - 5 lb. bags of ice; 1 bag covers one layer of fabric (layer of ice; dye; layer of ice)
 - 2 - 5 gallon buckets — one for dyeing, one for rinsing
 - Strainer - or an object to place in the bottom of the dye bucket to raise the fabric above the waste water
 - Plastic Drop-Cloth
 - Plastic Apron
 - Rubber gloves — dishwashing kitchen rubber gloves, long sleeve
 - Dusk mask, N95 preferred — must be worn when handling dye powders
 - Dawn Dish Soap - for rinsing
 - Dish pan for rinsing gloves, holding fabric
 - Synthrapol - for pre-wash & wash out
 - SHOUT Color Catchers
 - Spray bottle with water
 - Paper towels
 - Elastic bands
 - Water

Instructions for Ice Dyeing

Work Space Set Up

- Wearing your apron and gloves: Pour 2 gallons of hot water in a 5 gallon bucket, adding one cup of soda ash, mixing the ingredients with your gloved hands. When dissolved, drop in the fabric one piece at a time and soak for at least 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Set up your workspace table and cover with plastic drop cloth.
- Spray a few paper towels so that they are just damp, and lay them out on the table.
- Place your dyes and plastic forks on the paper towels; the towels will catch any stray dye from the containers and forks during use. Labeling the forks with the dye color using a Sharpie marker, will help to keep the dye colors pure.
- Place the strainer/lift upside down in the empty 5 gallon bucket.

The Process

- Wearing your apron and gloves, remove one piece of fabric at a time from the Soda Ash mixture and *squeeze* out the liquid, so it's not dripping — *do not wring*.
- Place the fabric on the table to manipulate. Fold, pleat, scrunch, twist as desired, using elastics to hold material in place as required. Continue to manipulate the rest of the pieces, one by one. Experimentation is encouraged. *Note:* the tighter the fabric is manipulated, the more chance of white space remaining in the fabric after dyeing; a little looser fabric produces dye blooms.
- Put the manipulated fabric on the strainer in the bucket, placing all of the pieces as close together as possible. When there is no more room on the strainer, leave the remaining pieces aside on the workspace for now.
- Add enough ice to completely cover the fabric on the strainer.
- Putting on your face mask, select a dye color. Using a plastic fork, dip the tines of the fork into the dye powder, tapping off a little of the excess dye. Sprinkle the dye over the ice as desired; repeat with other colors. Use the dye sparingly, as a little goes a long way.

Instructions for Ice Dyeing (contd)

The Process (contd)

- Cover with another layer of ice.
- Rinse your gloves in water to remove any stray dye particles before handling the remaining prepped fabric. This prevents traces of dye left on your gloves from marking your fabric.
- Add the rest of the fabric, keeping the pieces close together.
- Add another layer of ice, then the dye powder, and more ice to cover the dye.

It takes 24 hours for the dye to exhaust and the process to be complete. Place the bucket in an area that won't be disturbed overnight and loosely cover. Be sure the bucket is placed where the air temperature is warm enough to melt the ice.

The Rinse Out

- Fill a 5 gallon bucket half way with water and a squirt of Dawn Dish soap, mixing with gloved hands.
- Removing one piece of fabric at a time from the ice bucket, open up the fabric & put in the soapy water. The dish soap stops the dye process and removes excess dye particles from the fabric.
- Once all the fabric is removed, clean and rinse the dye bucket and fill half way with clean water.
- Remove one piece of fabric at a time from the soap bucket; squeeze out and rinse several times in the clean water, changing out the water periodically until the soap is gone and the water is mostly clear. (If using red dyes, they will take longer to wash out) Place the rinsed fabric in a dishpan.
- When all the pieces have been rinsed in the clean water, put in the washing machine with a capful of Synthrapol and a few SHOUT Color Catchers sheets, washing in hot water on a short cycle.
- Place fabric in the dryer for 5-8 minutes, removing while still damp. Iron on both sides and admire your work!

- Important ~ Be sure to rewash any fabric that was soaked in soda ash and not used. The soda ash will degrade the fabric if not washed out.

Resources for Ice Dyeing

Where to get What

- For fabric blanks, dye colors, soda ash and Synthrapol:

<https://prochemicalanddye.net>

<https://www.dharmatrading.com>

<https://www.vermontcountrystore.com/flour-sack-cotton-towel-sets-in-2-sizes/product/63272>

- Aprons, drop-cloths, masks, gloves and buckets are available at your local hardware or home improvement store.
- Color catchers are available at your local grocery store.



Directions for using Synthrapol for pre-washing fabric**

