

## Tie Dye Basics by Terri Meyer

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### Material List:

Garment(s) 100% cotton preferable

Plastic bucket – for soda ash soak and rinsing out garment after dying

Rubber Gloves and Face Mask for mixing Soda Ash and Dyes

String, rubber bands, twine, or dental floss for tying design

Plastic Bags to wrap garment after dying

Squeeze bottles (not required if you purchase a dye kit)

Measuring cups and teaspoons if using Dharma Dyes (not required if you purchase a dye kit)

**Soda Ash:** to Soak garments prior to dying (some kits include this)

Make your own Soda Ash: Alternative method for the thrifty minded: 1 Box Baking Soda

Spread baking soda on a stainless steel cookie sheet or lasagna pan with sides and bake at 400 degrees for 1 ½ hours, stir every 20 minutes. Do not use a glass pan, as I did and it exploded taking it out of the oven. I'm very lucky I didn't get hurt, what a mess! Also wear a mask when making this, as well as mixing the tie dye soak solution. Safety first!

Store left over soda ash in an air tight container with label.

Soaking solution: 1 cup soda ash to 1 gallon of warm water, I use a plastic foot bath container, a bucket will also work. Unused soaking solution can be saved and reused as well.

Soak garment for 20 minutes or longer

Wring out the garment (I recommend spinning in the washing machine to get out excess moisture, this will give you more vibrant colors)

Tie your garment into the desired design

**Dye:** Easiest method is to **purchase a kit, such as Tulip Dyes**, also most economical for the beginner. They come with the dye premeasured in the bottle and all you have to do is add water. This is recommended if this is your first dying experience.

For those who want to use professional grade dyes, I recommend **Dharma Fiber Reactive Dyes**. Many color choices.

For this method you will need squeeze bottles, measuring cups and spoons, along with urea and salt (they recommend non iodine, I use canning salt). Urea assists in dissolving the dye powder so you don't get speckles, salt helps to retain color vibrancy, warm water helps dissolve the dye. Mixing a paste with a little water then adding the balance of the water yields the best results.

**Mix Urea water:** 1 cup hot water to 1 Tablespoon Urea

**To mix Dharma Dyes:**

#of Shirts	Urea Water	Salt	Dye Powder (minimum, add more for richer and darker colors)
1	½ cup	½ TBS	1 Teaspoon
2	1 cup	1 TBS	2 Teaspoons
4	2 cups	2 TBS	4 Teaspoons
8	4 cups	4 TBS	8 Teaspoons

Test your dye intensity/color on a scrap piece of fabric before you begin the dyeing process.

Left over dyes are usually discarded as they lose color intensity after mixing with water.

**Begin the Tie Dye Process:**

- Remove your garment that has been soaked in soda ash
- Spin out excess water in washing machine
- Tie into desired design
- Dye with colors of choice
- Wrap in plastic and let set 24 hours in a warm environment
- After 24 hours curing process, rinse in cold water until it runs clear, untie and rinse again with cold water until the water runs clear
- Hand wash in hot water with mild detergent
- Let garment dry naturally or in the dryer.
- Wear your garment and be proud that you are now a fabric designer!
- Good Job!!