

EASY TIE-DYE

METHODS FOR BEGINNERS

PREP

Inspect your garment for flaws or defects. Pre-wash your garment with Synthropol (professional textile detergent) or Dawn dish soap. Soak your garment in soda ash for the suggested time listed on the packaging, typically a minimum of 30 minutes. Remember to wear protective gloves or use tongs and line your workspace with trash bags or a plastic tablecloth.

PICK A PATTERN

SPIRAL

1. Lay your damp shirt out flat.
2. Pinch the center of the garment and twist the fabric either clockwise or counterclockwise until the entire garment creates a circular shape.
3. Wrap the garment with rubber bands or string to hold in place.



CRUMPLE / SCRUNCH

1. Lay your damp shirt out flat.
2. Pinch the material together, crumpling to make a compact shape. Don't worry about making a pattern, it doesn't need to be perfect!
3. Use your rubber bands or string to secure the garment into a tight shape.



STRIPES

1. Lay your damp shirt out flat.
2. Fold back and forth to create an accordion pleat (vertically or horizontally).
3. Use rubber bands or string and tie around the folds, creating evenly spaced sections. The further apart your ties, the larger the stripes will be. Dye each section between the bands.



CHOOSE A TECHNIQUE

TRADITIONAL

1. Using a nozzle bottle apply the dye to your garment, generously saturating the fabric until almost all of it is covered in dye.
2. If you tied the garment in symmetrical sections (resembling the pieces of the pie), you can apply different colored dyes within each section, alternating colors to create your pattern.
3. If you tied your garment in an ununiform way, such as with the crumple or scrunch method, you may disperse your dye in a more sporadic fashion. Be careful not to let the colors bleed into each other that do not blend well to avoid any "muckiness".
4. Whatever dye application you choose, flip the garment over to the other side on a clean surface and apply dye to the other side before placing it in a ziplock bag.



CRAETER'S HACKS

COLOR MIXING CHEAT SHEET

- Red + blue + yellow
- Red + green
- Blue + orange
- Purple + yellow



REVERSE TIE-DYE

For a "reverse tie-dye" effect, leave the shirt tied while rinsing, and immediately after, sprinkle a layer of soda ash on the top of the garment. Then use the traditional or ice dyeing methods to apply colored dyes to the bleached spots you see on the clothing item. Let sit for no less than 24 hours before washout for the second treatment.

WASHING TIPS

With Traditional and Ice method, let dye sit for no less than 24 hours before out the dye. Machine or hand wash your garment with mild or professional textile detergent, air dry or tumble dry low.

BLEACHING TIP

Let sit anywhere from 10-30 minutes (depending on your desired lightness level) before rinsing out. Letting the bleach work its magic in the sun will achieve lighter results.

ICE

1. Place a wire baking rack on top of a large cake pan.
2. Wrap your tied shirt with a piece of bendable cardboard or poster board that is cut to rise a few inches about the top of the garment (think children's play crown). This will keep the ice on top of your garment as it melts.
3. Place your wrapped and tied shirt on top of the baking rack and cake pan.
4. Generously cover the top of the garment with ice .
5. Apply the dye on top of the layer of ice.
6. You can apply the dye in a variety of patterns such as stripes or randomly alternating colors. Just be mindful of colors to avoid mixing, see Craeter's Hack Color Mixing Cheat Sheet.
7. After the ice has melted, repeat the same steps on the other side of the garment and place it in a ziplock bag.



BLEACHING

1. Set up in a well-ventilated area.
2. Use a paintbrush, spray bottle, or squeeze bottle with a nozzle to apply a mixture of 75% bleach and 25% water to the garment. Thoroughly coat the visible surfaces with bleach.
3. Flip garment over and apply more bleach.
4. Leave the tied garment out in a bleach-safe container, bowl, or on a plastic liner to process.

