

ICE DYEING BEGINNERS GUIDE

Starting to ice dye can be a fun experiment to observe how small differences can alter the effect of the dye on the fabric. Many dedicated ice dyers have developed their own unique methods through trial and error, testing various set ups to get specific results.

Navigating these options might seem daunting for beginners, so we've created this resource to get you started and get experimenting to find your own unique set up.

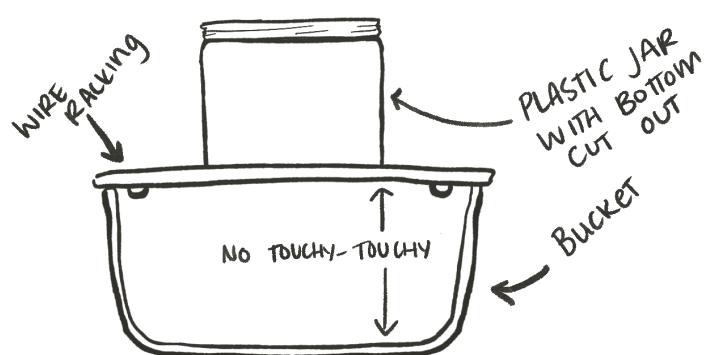
Ice dyeing can be a slow process, offering great potential for experimentation. It presents an excellent opportunity for Inquiry-Based Learning activities, suitable for both children and adults. We've enjoyed taking notes, observing results, and making minor adjustments to our set up to see how they affect the outcome!

If you're eager to begin, you can try 'our setup', which demonstrates the method we used to create the swatches for the *Kraftcolour Ice Dye Procion Colour Chart*.

Furthermore, we've developed a guide with variables for you to experiment with, a *Documentation Sheet* to record your setup and methods, and Swatch Labels to help you observe how small variations can influence your results and stay organised.

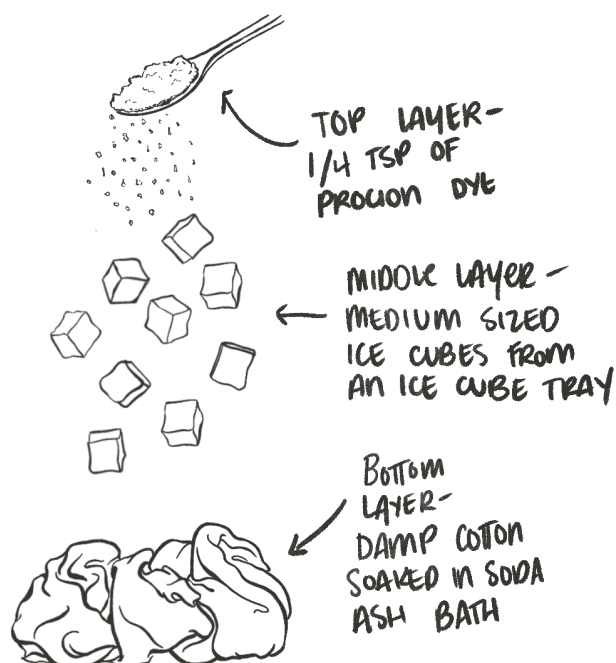
Additionally, we offer an Ice Dye Instruction Sheet on our website's instruction page, detailing how to prepare your fabric with Soda Ash and providing dye measurements.

OUR SET UP



You don't need anything too fancy; see what you can find around your house, but remember it can't be used for any food prep afterward.

We used a plastic tub to catch the runoff, placed a baking cooling rack on top, and utilized a 500g plastic jar with the bottom cut out.



For the fabric, we opted for cotton shirting, which we pre-soaked in soda ash, air-dried, stored, and then moistened under the tap until damp. This step ensures that we have cotton ready to dye, but you can also remove it directly from the soda ash, squeeze out the excess liquid, and use it immediately.

As for layering, we followed the method described above and typically allowed our samples to 'batch' for 24 hours. Afterwards, we gave them a quick rinse with Dynazol and left them to dry.

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It's remarkable how a small change can significantly impact the outcome of your swatches and dyeings. Below is a comprehensive list for beginners, detailing potential variations you can experiment with to achieve different results. For instance, within the ice dyeing community, there's considerable discussion about the size and shape of the ice used!

We encourage you to have fun with your experiments and to ask yourself questions like 'What if I tried this?' or 'What's the difference between Dye Over Ice (DOI) and Dye Under Ice (DUI)?' We can assure you that even minor changes like these can yield noticeable differences in your results!

Don't forget to use the *Documentation Sheet* and *Swatch Labels* to ensure you capture your methods accurately, enabling you to recreate the effects! Happy dyeing!

VARIABLE 1 - LAYERING

Changing the layering of your fabric, ice, and dye can definitely yield different results!

One method might produce more speckles, while another might create more movement, and yet another could affect the depth of shade in your dye.

Here are two basic methods to try:

DOI - Dye Over Ice: fabric, ice, dye

DUI - Dye Under Ice: fabric, dye, ice

But what happens if you experiment with placing some ice under the fabric as well as on top?

What if you apply dye both under AND over the ice?

What if you incorporate a tissue or piece of paper towel into the mix to observe its effects?

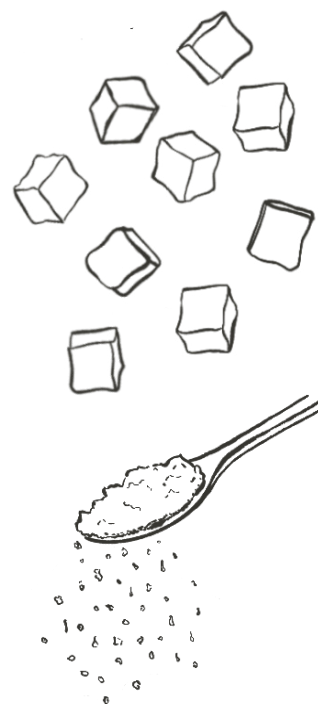
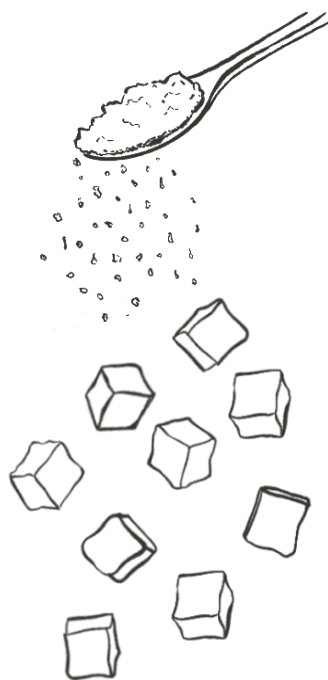
You could attempt variations such as:

fabric, tissue, ice, dye

fabric, ice, tissue, dye

And explore other combinations!

Some ice dyers also sprinkle a bit more soda ash on top or in the middle.



DOI

DUI

VARIABLE 2 - CONTAINER

IN THE MUCK:

- ITEM NOT HELD / ELEVATED
- PUT DIRECTLY ON BOTTOM OF CONTAINER.
- ICE MELTS W. DYE & THEN SITS IN THE 'MUCK'



There are generally two types of basic setups for your containers:

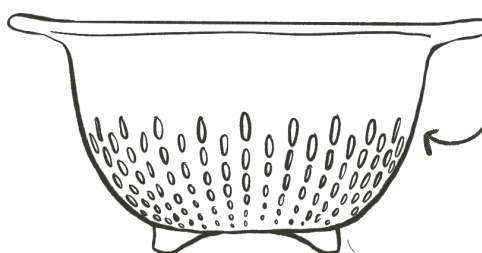
Elevated setup: In this arrangement, the container is elevated so that the ice water and dye (or 'muck') flow down and away from the fabric or item.

In the muck setup: The item is placed on the bottom of a container, and then the melted ice and dye (muck) surround it.

You don't have to try both methods if one doesn't appeal to you. Each method has its own set of pros and cons relating to space, access to materials, etc.

DIY EDGES:

- IF YOU CAN'T FIND THE RIGHT SHAPED CONTAINER YOU CAN TRY:
- CARDBOARD
 - COREFLUTE OR OTHER PLASTIC SHEETS
 - SILICONE BAKING MOLD STRIP
 - DON'T FORGET YOUR CLIPS !!



- CONTAINER:**
- COLANDER
 - TUB W. NO BOTTOM OR W. HOLE

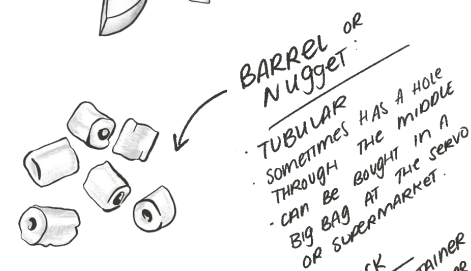
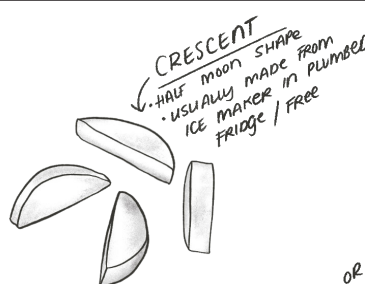
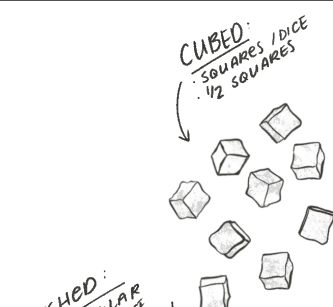
VARIABLE 3 - ICE

Many ice dyers have preferences for certain types or shapes of ice to achieve specific effects.

Here are some of the most common types that you can experiment with.

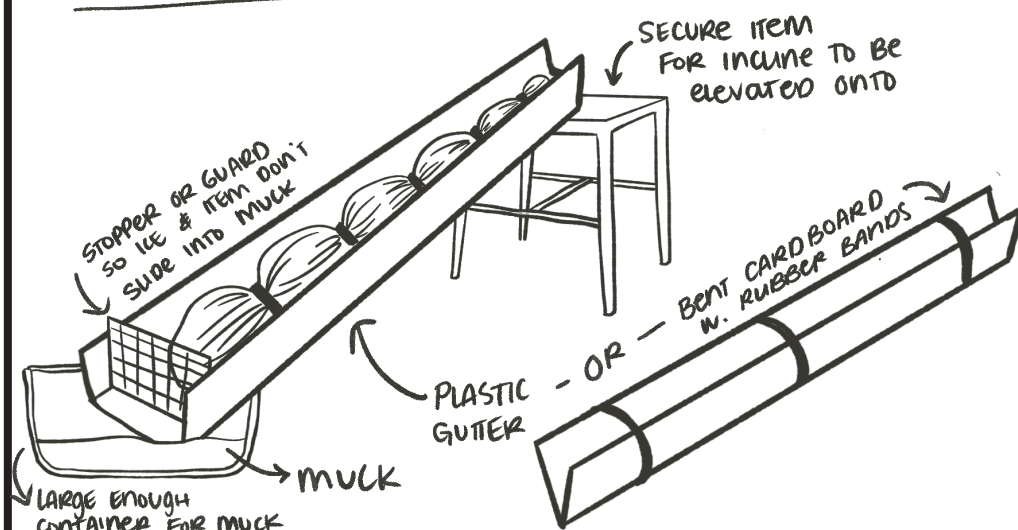
If you're fortunate enough to live in a colder climate, you can even use snow!

Keep in mind that the weather will also affect the rate of melting. So, during hot summers, you could experiment with multiple applications of ice, as well as varying the size of the ice!



ADVANCED VARIABLES - INCLINES

INCLINE EXAMPLE #1



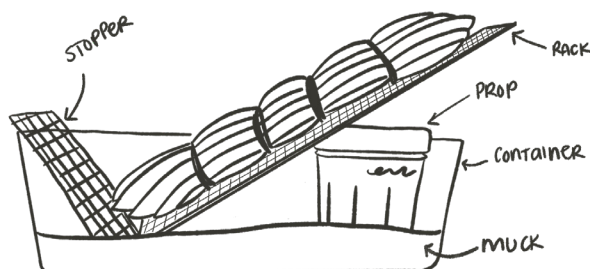
Once you have experimented with the essential materials and setups for ice dyeing, you're ready to explore some advanced variables! Woohoo!

Sometimes, you'll come across an ice-dyed piece that appears to have a flow or movement in the way the fabric has been dyed. This effect can be achieved by utilizing gravity!

Using inclines is one method to introduce movement into your ice dyeing. These setups don't have to be elaborate, but if you're working on a larger piece, they may require a bit more space.

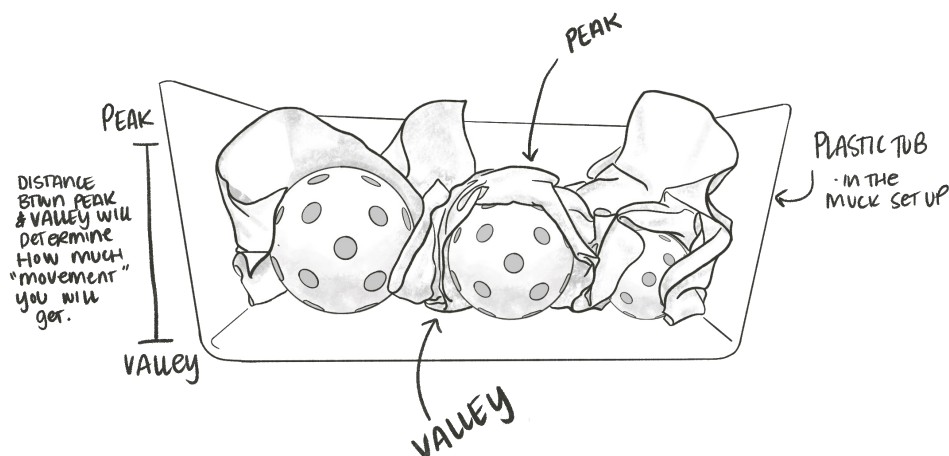
Consider trying a small-scale version first, like example 2, before moving on to larger setups.

You can find lots of amazing examples online and in Facebook groups.



INCLINE EXAMPLE 2

ADV. VARIABLES - PEAKS & VALLEYS



Another way to utilize gravity in a smaller setting is by setting up 'peaks and valleys,' sometimes referred to as 'tall deep scrunches' (TDS).

To achieve this effect, arrange your fabric to create high points and low points.

If your fabric is thick, like a hoodie, and placed in a tight tub where it holds itself up, you may not need any assistance in forming the peaks and valleys. However, if you're working with a small sample or using lightweight fabric, you can use various objects placed under the fabric to create the highs and lows. One popular item for this purpose is a 'wiffle' ball (as shown above), but you can also use balls of aluminum foil, jars, etc.

The advantage of using a wiffle ball is that, if it's large enough, you can push some of the fabric into the holes to create even more variations!

ICE DYEING DOCUMENTATION SHEET

DATE:

BATCH TIME:

MATERIAL:

ICE:

DYE/S:

APPLICATION:

☐

DOI

☐

DUI

OTHER:

☐

☐

☐

☐

SET UP NOTES:

RESULTS:

NEXT TIME I MIGHT TRY:

