

PROCION ICE DYEING



This technique is great for amazing random dyed patterns on cotton and silk. By covering fabric in ice cubes and sprinkling it with Procion dye powders, when the ice melts, the dye gradually seeps into the fabric.

Prewash your fabric first to remove any starch or finishes.

First you will need to make up a Soda Ash Solution – 20gms per 1ltr water.

Presoak the fabric for at least 15 mins to allow it to thoroughly soak in. Pull it out and squeeze out the excess solution. The Soda Ash solution can be kept and used again.

Place a cake rack in a shallow tray and arrange the fabric on it. Scrunch it, fold it, pleat it or tie it. Completely cover the rack with fabric.

Next cover the fabric in a layer of ice cubes or crushed ice. Any areas of fabric which are not covered in ice will remain white – crushed ice makes it easier to get full coverage.

Choose your dye colours and start sprinkling them on the ice (wear a mask when dealing with dye powders). Start with your first colour - you can put the dye where ever you like, as the ice melts the dyes will blend and spread so keep this in mind when choosing your palette. Some dyes may split into their different components which will add to the patterning.

When you have finished sprinkling the dye powders, cover the tray with plastic and allow it to sit for 24 hours to penetrate and fix on the fabric.

The next day your fabric may look like a muddy mess but once it's rinsed the patterning will be revealed.

The liquid from the melted ice should be sitting under the rack so it will not be touching the fabric.

Rinse well first with Dynazol Wash Off, in hot soapy water and then in warm water until it runs clear.