

# Natural Fiber Dyeing Basics

This playbook outlines the essential steps involved in dyeing fabrics with natural fibers. It covers the introduction to materials, preparation of fibers, and the various dyeing techniques.

## Step 1: **Materials**

Gather all natural dye materials, which could include plant leaves, flowers, bark, roots, or fruits, and the natural fabric you intend to dye. Also, prepare equipment such as pots, spoons, measuring cups, and protective gear.

## Step 2: **Preparation**

Wash the fabric to remove impurities. Then, mordant the fabric if needed, which involves treating it with a substance that helps the dye to bond. After mordanting, rinse the fabric thoroughly.

## Step 3: **Dye Extract**

Simmer the natural materials in a pot of water to extract the dye. Strain out the plant material to leave only the dye bath.

## Step 4: **Dyeing**

Wet the fabric, then place it in the dye bath. Heat and maintain the bath at a simmer, ensuring the fabric stays submerged for even coloring. Stir gently at intervals.

## Step 5: **Color Setting**

Once the desired color is achieved, remove the fabric from the dye bath. Rinse the fabric under cold water until the water runs clear, then hang it to dry away from direct sunlight to prevent fading.

## **General Notes**

### **Color Fixatives**

Some natural dyes may require the use of a color fixative or a post-mordant process for long-lasting color.

### **Safety Precautions**

Always wear protective gear such as gloves and masks when handling mordants and dye materials, as some can be toxic or irritants.