



Blackest Black

Clothing dyes

1 Preparations

Wash the clothing as you normally would to remove any stains, grease, dirt, etc. You can do this in advance; it doesn't matter if the clothing is wet or dry to start with.

Check that you have all the needed items:

- dye
- cup and spoon
- hot water
- soda ash
- something to stir with
- kitchen salt
- disposable gloves
- plastic bucket or tub
- paper kitchen towels – just in case!

2 Relax

All times indicated below are our advised minimums for good results. At any step, it is fine to leave things for a bit longer. In fact, the longer you leave the items in the dye bath, the deeper the colour will be.

3 Measuring

Dyeing with Blackest Black involves four ingredients: dye, soda ash, salt, and water. See the tables on the back to see how much of each you need. If you're dyeing multiple items, just increase the amounts accordingly. Our website also has a calculator¹ which will do the math for you, depending on what you're dyeing.

4 Dissolving the dye

Add a cup of warm water to the bucket. Then, add the dye and stir into a smooth mix.

5 Adding water and salt

Fill the bucket with enough warm water (about 40°C, or 105°F) to easily cover the clothes to be dyed. Add kitchen salt and stir until the salt dissolves.

6 Adding the fabric

Add your items to the dye bath and stir gently for about 20 minutes to thoroughly saturate them with dye.

7 Adding the soda ash

In a separate container, mix the soda ash with warm water (one or two cups of water per packet) and stir until dissolved. Slowly add the soda ash solution to the bucket, while stirring.

Leave the clothes in the dye bath for 30-60 minutes, stirring occasionally.

8 Cleaning up

Rinse clothes with cold running water until the water stays almost clear. Then, wash the clothes in the washing machine to remove the last of the excess dye. You can add fabric softener for extra smooth results.

Metal, glass and plastic cups and spoons can just be rinsed and washed as usual. The remaining dye solution can be safely poured down the drain. Rinse thoroughly with water afterwards.

¹ www.blackestblack.com/calculator.html

Measurements for common items

Below you'll find the amounts of dye, soda ash, salt and water to use for various common items. Don't worry too much about measuring very carefully. When in doubt, use a little more dye, make sure you have enough water to be able to properly stir, and everything should be just fine!

If you're dyeing white or coloured items, use double the amount of dye, and keep the other quantities the same.

T-shirt (250 g, 9 oz)	
Dye	1 spoon*
Soda ash	¼ packet
Salt	1 cup
Water	4 litres

Dress shirt (350 g, 12 oz)	
Dye	2 spoons*
Soda ash	⅓ packet
Salt	1½ cups
Water	6 litres

Lightweight pants (500 g, 18 oz)	
Dye	¼ bottle (2+ spoons)
Soda ash	½ packet
Salt	2½ cups
Water	8 litres

Heavy pants and jeans (800 g, 28 oz)	
Dye	½ bottle (3+ spoons)
Soda ash	1 packet
Salt	3½ cups
Water	13 litres

* A teaspoon or the 5 ml measuring spoon we included. Not a heaping spoonful, just so much it easily stays on.

If your item is not on the list, you can use the calculator on our website, or just adjust the quantities above to match. You can take notes below.

Weight	g / oz
Dye	spoons
Soda ash	packets
Salt	cups
Water	litres