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How to Dye Jeans Black Using Dylon Dye

The process below explains how to dye a pair of jeans using Dylon dye. It is important because a lot of people love to wear black jeans. However, every time you wash black jeans, the jeans will become a little more faded. This dyeing process will make your black jeans look better and last longer. Usually, this process would take you an hour or two hours to do. The outcome of this process varies, dependent on how much dye powder you use and for how long you submerged your jeans in the dye solution. When one is mixing the dye solution and submerging the jeans into the solution, one needs to wear a pair of gloves to prevent any stain. Afterall, dyeing jeans will enhance the color of jeans. On the other hand, people in ancient times loved to dye their clothes in bright colors to show off their status [1].

The earliest record of using dyes was in 2600 B.C in China. Most of the natural dyes are extracted from plants, insects, and logwood [2]. For instance, Indigo is derived from indigo plants, Alizarin is extracted from madder plants, and Tyrian Purple came from the glands of snails [2]. Moreover, there are three types of natural dyes: dyes obtained from plants, dyes obtained from animals, and dyes obtained from minerals [2]. Natural dyes declined during the 1850s due to the rise of synthetic dyes [3]. The rapid growth of synthetic dyes is because the Industrial Revolution led to the increase in demand for dyes. Therefore, chemists and researchers think of new ways of dyeing that are cost-effective, readily available and easy to apply [3]. Overall, the dyeing process has become easier and more effective as time passes by.

Procedure

- 1) Gather Supplies, prepare workplace, and prewash jeans.
 - I. Gather supplies: The supplies one will need for this process are Dylon dye, jeans, salt, measuring cup, rubber gloves, newspapers, and a container [4].
 - II. Prepare workplace: Floor is covered with newspapers to prevent any spills and stain one's floor.
 - III. Prewash jeans: Jeans are placed in washing machine or washed by hand to remove any residue on the jeans. This action is to prevent any residue on the jean affecting the dyeing process [5].
- 2) Weigh jeans: Jeans are place on a weighing scale to determine how much the jeans weighs. "One packet of Dylon permanent dye dyes up to half pound of fabric." [4] One use the information from weighing the jeans to determine how much dye powder one should use.
- 3) Prepare dye solution: Water is added to a pot to boil to 200 F° (three gallons of water for every one pound of fabric) [5]. After water reaches 200 F°, water is poured into a container. Immediately following, dye powder and salt (1/4 cup of salt per ½ pound of fabric) [6] is added to container. Then, one uses a long handle spoon or a stick to mix the dye solution evenly. Finally, a piece of white cloth is dipped into the dye solution to test the color of the dye solution [5].
- 4) Check jeans before submerging them into dye solution: Squeezing the jeans makes sure that there is no excess water in the jeans [5]. Afterward, the jeans are hung on a hanger and one uses a steamer to smooth out the jeans to make sure that they are as wrinkle-free as possible [7].

- 5) Submerge the jeans into the container with the dye solution: The jeans are put into the container with the dye solution after one has checked for excess water and wrinkle (one needs to wear a pair of gloves when handling with dye solution). Soon after submerging the jeans, one stirs constantly with a stick for at least thirty minutes. During the process of stirring, one is looking at the jeans to make sure they are not twisted or tangled to prevent uneven coloring. Moreover, one stirs in all directions, clockwise and counter clockwise, to let the dye be absorbed evenly [5].
- 6) Remove the jeans from the container and rinse with water: First, the jeans are rinsed with warm water to remove any excess dye. Then, when the water turns clear, switch to cold water. “This transition into cold water will help the fibers shrink back up and lock in any remaining dye.” [6]
- 7) Wash the jeans and dry them: Soon after one rinses the jeans, one puts the jeans and an old towel into a washing machine to wash the jeans and remove any excess dye. While the jeans were being washed, the old towel will absorb the excess dye from the jeans [5].
Later, the jeans are put on a hanger to air dry after they are finished being washed.

One should make sure that the jeans are completely dry before wearing them. This is to prevent any dye stain from getting on one’s legs. This dyeing process will give the jeans a dark black color, however the color of the jeans will fade if one does not take care of them. On the other hand, there are ways to reduce color and slow down the fading. One should wash the black jeans in-side out with cold water. Furthermore, it is important to wash the jeans with other dark clothes and use detergent specifically made for dark color clothes [8]. The most effective way is to use a steamer instead of washing your jeans.



Figure 1 –Before and after the dyeing process [9]

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