



Natural household dyes

From 3 years up

Make a selection of dyes from natural sources, these can then be used to make your own napkins, headbands or even tie-dye!

Pink dye:

Save up your avocado stones to make a pink dye.



1. Make sure you remove all flesh from the stones and rinse them under cold water.

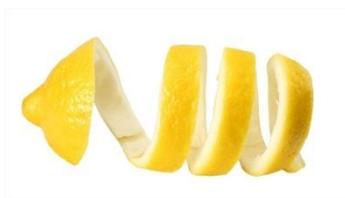
2. Fill up a pot with enough water to cover what you would like to dye (an old pillowcase can be turned into several napkins).

3. Add the avocado stones to the water and bring to a gentle boil and then simmer for 20-40 minutes. The water should turn a deep pink colour.

4. Now you can remove from the heat and add your fabric. Leave for at least 1 – 2 hours but you can leave over night for a deeper colour.

Yellow dye:

Peel lemons and oranges to make yellow dye.



1. Peel your fruit and separate as much of the pith (white flesh) from the yellow skin as possible – we only require the yellow part.

2. Chop the skin up and add to a saucepan with 2 cups of water for every cup of peel.

3. Simmer on a low heat for about an hour and allow to cool. Once cool, strain mixture into a jar for storage.

4. Treat the fabric you are going to dye with a fixative. 1/4 cup salt, OR 1 cup vinegar, 4 cups water. Add the water and salt or vinegar to a large pot. Stir to dissolve/blend. Add the fabric. Bring to a simmer over a medium-low setting. Allow to boil for 1 hour. Rinse the fabric or piece of clothing in cold water.

5. Soak in dye for as long as you like to reach desired colour. Rinse with water and hang dry out of sunlight.

Brown/purple dye:

Onion skins make brown or purple dyes.



1. Save up your onion skins, the more you have the deeper the dye colour.

2. Brown onions make a deep brown dye and red onions make a purple dye.

3. Add to a pot of boiling water and simmer for around 45 minutes to an hour. When cool, strain the mixture into a jar or container.

4. The longer you soak your fabric the deeper the colour you will achieve.