

Natural Dye With Turmeric



By: Alyssa Noemi Skerret

Introduction

This will be my second chance at creating a natural dye but using turmeric instead of blueberries. I never heard of turmeric before but when I discovered that it contains the color yellow I knew I had to try it out for myself. In my opinion, yellow is such a happy color and the perfect shade for tie dye. Since this is my second try at making a dye for my shirt, I had so much confidence in myself and used all the knowledge I grasped during this semester. I'm so excited to share my second hands on experiment with resist-dyeing.

Material List

1. 100% Cotton Shirt In White
2. Salt
3. Pure White Vinegar
4. Bottle Of Turmeric
5. Rubberbands

Turmeric Dyeing Process

Step 1: Pour 10 cups of water onto a pot that will fit your garment that you plan on dyeing. (In this case, I'm using a 100% cotton shirt in white.) Place your shirt into the pot that is filled with water. Make sure that you turn the stove on.

Step 2: Pour enough salt into the pot to make it boil and then you are going to pour 3 ounces of vinegar twice into the pot. After that let the shirt cook for about 5-10 minutes.



This is me pour enough salt onto my shirt which was already inside the pot.



Here's me pouring the vinegar on a measuring cup.

Step 3: While your shirt is being cooked, pour the water into another pot and make sure when pouring the bottle of turmeric use the entire bottle into the pot of water. Let the turmeric cook for at least 15 minutes.



The turmeric being prepared to boil.

Step 4: Now that the turmeric is being cooked remove your shirt out of the pot and put it on a strainer. Be careful your shirt is going to be extremely hot, so be prepared to wear an oven mitt when placing the garment into the strainer. Once you let your shirt cool off, squeeze out all the excess water.

Pouring the water out of the pot carefully, so I can cool off my garment.



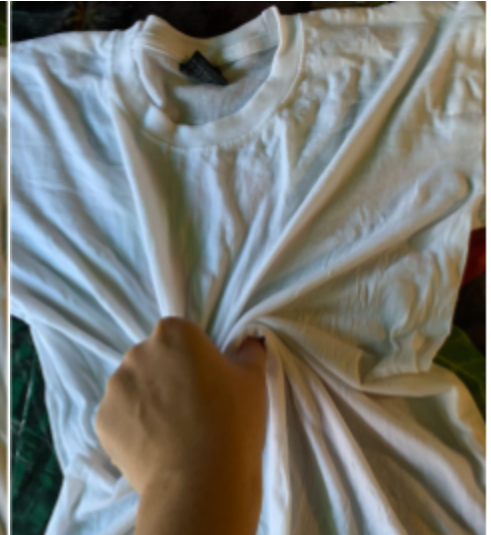
Step 5: Grab your shirt and lay it flat on a table. Start from the middle of the shirt and pinch the fabric at this point and twist into a swirl. Be sure to twist the fabric tightly until the entire shirt is formed into a spiral shape.



Lay the shirt flat on a table, be sure you have enough space.



Locate the center of the shirt.



Begin to pinch the fabric in the middle and twist into a swirl. Keep twisting on twisting!

Keep twisting!



Step 6: Start wrapping your shirt with rubber bands to secure the spiral shirt. You can add as many rubber bands as you like. The more rubber bands you use, the more secure your spiral shirt will be.

Once you finish securing your spiral shape shirt with rubber bands, it should look like this.



Step 7: Now it's finally time to dump your shirt onto the dye! Be sure to flip the shirt a few times.

Turmeric Dye is done and is ready to be used.



Dump your shirt right into the dye.

Step 8: Leave it in the dye for at least 9 hours.

Keep the shirt in the dye for at least 9 hours.



Step 9: Remove your shirt out of the dye and begin to wash your shirt with lukewarm water while removing the rubber bands.

Step 10: After washing your shirt let it air dry overnight.



Front of the shirt.



Back of shirt.

The Final Results



Comparison and Findings

My final project came so much better than my previous project and I'm extremely satisfied with the final results. Before I began my final project I was procrastinating on starting my project because I was undecided on what natural ingredient I wanted to use for my dyestuff. First, I wanted to use blackberries, then I thought about switching to beets. But, my last decision was to use turmeric after watching a tutorial on youtube. I fell in love with the color and I just had to try it out for myself. This time I didn't write down the steps to prepare myself like I did for my natural dye research project, because I felt really confident in myself and I knew what I

was doing. I started to pour ten cups of water into the pot then dumped my shirt inside the pot. In order to make the shirt take in the color from the natural ingredient, I poured enough salt all over the shirt and poured 3 ounces of vinegar twice. I then let the shirt cook while I did my next task which was preparing the dye. To prepare my dye I poured water and the whole bottle of turmeric onto a new pot and waited for it to boil. While the turmeric was boiling, I lowered the flame and focused on preparing my shirt for the next step. Once my shirt was cooled off from being cooked, I squeezed out all the excess water and laid the shirt flat on the table. Since I was using the spiral tie-dye technique, the first step I did was pinch the shirt in the middle and begin to twist it into a swirl. I kept doing this step until the entire shirt was formed into a spiral shape. (“Spiral Tie-Dye Technique”, 2021). In order to hold the shirt in shape, I used about 8 rubber bands to hold my spiral shirt in place. The next step was the fun part which was dipping my shirt into my dye and leaving it there for 9 hours. Originally, I was going to leave my shirt inside the dye overnight but I wanted to do things differently from my previous project. On this project the only tutorial I followed was the spiral tie dye technique on a website. Other than that I did things my way instead of following tutorials and I’m so proud of myself because everything came out exactly the way I wanted it too. Once 9 hours were up I took my shirt out of the dye and washed everything off with lukewarm water and took out all the rubber bands. When I finished washing my shirt, I saw the spiral pattern and was satisfied with the results. Finally, I let the shirt air dry overnight. The next day my shirt looked the same way it did when it was damp. It was shocking to me because I expected the color to slightly change. Although, on my natural dye research project my shirt was a darker shade purple when it was damp, until the next day the color changed into a lighter purple. This was such a success and I’m more prouder with the outcome than my previous experiment with resist-dyeing.



This was my first time experimenting with resist-dyeing. My shirt was freshly hand washed with lukewarm water and was ready to be air dry overnight. I used the crumple technique.



This is my second time experimenting with resist-dyeing. My shirt was freshly hand washed with lukewarm water and was ready to be air dry overnight. I used the spiral technique.



Here's a picture of me and my final results from my natural dye research project.



Here's a picture of my final results for my final project after my product was done being air dry for 24 hours.

Conclusion

Lastly, I got the experience of making a natural dye for the second time and I could honestly say I have a much better understanding of creating natural dyes and understanding what makes a garment take in the colors from natural dyes such as vegetables, fruits or any household item that can be found in the kitchen. This has inspired me so much and I'm willing to do this again on a different garment such as bucket hat or tapestry. I really enjoyed doing this project and I would definitely do this again!

References

Haibeck, E. (2020, March 30). Tie-Dyeing w/ Turmeric. *YouTube*.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTTLR_9IzvQ&feature=youtu.be

A. (2020, July 8). *I Tie-Dyed An Entire Outfit Using Vegetables* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7q-D0wMr2cc&feature=youtu.be>

Tulip Tie Dye. (n.d.). *Spiral Tie-Dye Technique*. TieDyeYourSummer.

<https://www.tiedyeyoursummer.com/Technique/spiral-tie-dye-technique>