

The Canadian Tube Fly Company

“Dying 101”

1. Wash your feathers and/or fur with a gentle liquid dishwashing soap. Make sure that your items get fully wet from base to tip. Rinse the soap out completely and let the items soak in the clean water for a few minutes. **Never put dry items into a dye bath.**
2. Choose the container you are going to dye your items in. A stainless steel sauce pan (stove top) or Pyrex glass baking pan (microwaving) work well
3. Mix the dye with approximately 2 liters of warm water in your container. Start by adding **half of the dye** to your water. Heat your mixture up to just before it boils (about 95 degrees Celsius or 200 Fahrenheit if you are using a thermometer). Heating can be done in the microwave or stovetop. Add 10% white vinegar to the bath (i.e. if you added 2 liter of water to the bath, add 200 ml of vinegar).
4. Place your items in the dye bath. Try and keep the temperature constant just below the boiling point. Keep the items moving around in the container, making sure the dye bath gets into every little fiber of the item. Check the items by lifting them an inch or two out of the dye bath. If the colour looks good leave them in for a few more minutes. When you rinse, some of the colour will wash away. If after 15 minutes or so the colour is still not strong enough, add more dye powder. Keep the items “cooking” until you are happy with the colour.
5. Rinse the items under warm water until you see no more of the colour washing away. The water dripping from the item should be clear or have just a hint of the dyed colour.
6. Place on newspaper or paper towel for a few minutes. Hang to dry. The items may seem “crunchy” and stiff when they have dried. Simply “fluff” them up by shaking them. You could blow dry on a low heat too.

Some Friendly tips :

- **Do not do this in your kitchen without permission from the cook of the house!** If even a speck of this dye powder gets onto a counter top it can be there forever. A “Mr. Clean Magic Eraser” is your new best friend for any spills. The powder can actually get “airborne” too. Landing on places as flecks where you were not even working.
- Dying in the garage or outside using a hot plate, old microwave, or camp stove is the best way to go. It will keep the mess to a minimum and probably keep you married longer 😊 There is also a **unique odour to dying**..... not the same as walking into the house when a roast is cooking!
- **Do not boil the mix.** The second you see any signs of boiling, cut the heat. Boiled feathers or fur can be destroyed.
- Wooden barbecue skewers are your best friend. They are great for moving material around and are disposable and compostable when finished.
- Gloves are a good idea. Your hands could remain hot pink for a couple of days if there is an accident 😊.

Remember that dying is not a fine science. If you stick to these steps though you will be well on your way to getting the results you are after and sometimes some very nice surprises too 😊