

# Faux Snow Dyeing

by Candy Glendening



## Materials

*Caution: All supplies must be dedicated to nonfood use.*

- Plastic sheets
- Dishpan
- Fiberglass screening cut 6" larger in both dimensions than the dishpan
- Binder clips (4 per dishpan)
- PFD (prepared for dyeing) fabric, 1½ yds., cut into 3 pieces ½ yd. each
- Soda ash solution (½ cup sodium carbonate mixed in 1 gallon water)
- Particulate mask (to wear while handling the dye powders)
- Latex/rubber gloves
- Procion® MX fiber reactive dye powders
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Plastic cups
- Crushed ice (This is your "Faux Snow.")

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cover your work surface with plastic sheets. Use the binder clips to clip the fiberglass screen over the dishpan.
  2. Set the the fabric to soak in the soda ash solution for 15 minutes.
  3. Put on the mask and gloves. Measure 2–3 tsps. of dye powder into a plastic cup . This dye concentration creates pretty intense colors. For a more pastel look, use less dye powder.
  4. Measure 1 cup of lukewarm water into another plastic cup. Add a small amount of water to the dye, mixing it into a paste. Continue adding small amounts of water until the powder is completely dissolved.
  5. Repeat with the other dye colors. You will need 4–5 ounces of dyes for each ½ yd. of fabric.
  6. Wring out the soaked fabric, place it flat on a work surface, and "scrumble" it by squeezing it with your fingers into loose folds, pits, and valleys. Place the scumbled fabric on the fiberglass screening clipped to the dishpan.
  7. Cover the fabric with 1"–2" of crushed ice. Pour the measured dyes over the surface of the ice. (Dyeing the fabric with a single color will also provide wonderful results.)
- Note:** *When pouring the dye on the ice, some of it travels through to the fabric right away, but some sticks to the ice and hits the fabric more slowly. This explains why you can get such wonderful tonal variations.*
8. Set the dishpan aside. As the ice melts, it will both add color (as the dye trapped in the ice hits the fabric) and rinse the excess soda ash away.
  9. After the ice has melted, rinse each piece individually under cold running water until the fabric is no longer slippery. You can now wash all the fabric together in hot water in your washing machine. Run a complete cycle, then start another. During the middle of the second wash cycle, scoop out some water in a clear glass. If the water shows no dye, it's done. If not, run one more wash cycle. ■

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