



COCHINEAL Natural Dye

ORIGIN	<p>Cochineal is a scale insect that infests the Prickly Pear cactus. We provide this insect whole and dried.</p> <p>Our cochineal is wild-gathered in the mountains of Peru. It is collected by indigenous people after the insect has completed its natural life cycle.</p>
FIBERS	<p>Cochineal dyes brilliantly on protein fibers (such as silk and wool). Cellulose fibers (such as hemp and cotton) do not absorb it as well, so more is needed.</p>
FASTNESS	<p>Excellent fastness to light and washing*.</p>
HOW MUCH TO USE	<p>Use 12% - 50% by weight for dyeing silk or wool, depending on the desired intensity of color.</p> <p>Use 50% - 100% by weight on cellulose fibers (hemp, cotton, etc.) for reds, pinks need much less.</p>
MORDANTS /FIXERS/ ASSISTS	<p>Alum gives true crimson, Tin gives true scarlet, and Copper gives lavender. Iron is used after to modify the color to a plum or violet.</p> <p>Use acids (such as vinegar, Oxalic Acid, or Citric Acid) for orange, brighter tones. Use Ammonia (clear, pure, non-sudsing) for violet tones.</p> <p>Add the assist (either ammonia or an acid) to your vat until the dye liquid reaches the desired tone.</p>
HOW TO EXTRACT	<p>Place the dyestuff in a pot with three times the volume of water. Bring to a boil and keep boiling for 20 minutes. Strain out the dyestuff and save the liquid.</p> <p>For paint-dyeing, simply use this concentration.</p> <p>For vat dyeing, repeat the process at least two more times, adding the extracted liquid to your vat each time.</p>
HOW TO DYE	<p>Add your fiber to the dyepot and allow one hour for the deepest colors. Pinks will dye in minutes!</p>
DISPOSAL	<p>Add the spent dyestuff to your compost bin or spread around the base of plants.</p>
*CARE	<p>Handwash, use a mild soap such as Dr. Bronner's. For reds, wash separately the first few washes as there may be some bleeding. <u>Do not soak.</u></p>

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