



# Procion® MX Dyes

## Hints & Tips for Dyeing with Procion MX Dyes

### Safety Considerations

- Always wear rubber gloves.
- Wear a NIOSH/MSHA dust mask or respirator when working with dry powders. Inhaling the dye powder or soda ash in large quantities may cause serious health problems.
- Use measuring cups, spoons, and utensils for dyeing only. Don't mix with kitchen utensils.

### Dyeing with Procion MX Dyes

- Dye spilled on surfaces can be cleaned with bleach or household cleansers.
- Use a hand cleaner, such as Reduran to remove dye from skin. Do not use bleach since it dissolves protein (like your skin!).
- For an even take-up of dye in immersion dyeing, soak the fiber in clear water for at least 15 minutes to wet completely. If the fiber has been washed, do not dry, move directly to dyeing.
- Synthrapol is a more effective washing agent than regular soap, especially when turquoise, fuchsia and any color mixes containing these dye colors are used. These colors require increased time and care in washing out the excess dye. Often several hot soap soaks are necessary.
- Mix powdered dye with a small amount of water to form a paste when dissolving. After all lumps are removed, gradually add more water until the dye is thoroughly dissolved. For quicker pasting, add 2 drops of Synthrapol before adding the water.
- Dye colors may vary in volume due to the nature that some dyestuffs are dense and others are fluffy. Therefore, some dye colors will be more concentrated if measured by teaspoons.
- Altitude, water quality (mineral or chloring content), humidity, dyebath temperature, brand and purity of vinegar and/or soda ash can all influence the dye process. Perfume, whiteners and brighteners in household detergents and soaps can totally change the dye color. Two seemingly identical runs can have quite different results if any of these variables change.

### Rinsing Procion MX Dyes

1. Wearing gloves, rinse the dyed fiber first with cool water, then with increasingly warmer water.
2. After 3 or 4 rinses, when the water is nearly clear, prepare a soap soak. Use 2 to 3 gallons of very hot tap water and 1 1/2 tea spoons of Synthrapol. The fiber should sit in this soap bath for 5 to 10 minutes.
3. Rinse 3 or 4 additional times with warm water.

For wool or other fibers that may felt, keep the temperature of the water nearly the same in each rinse as well as the soap soak.