

# Lupine Fest Tie Dye Instructions

Tie Dye is one of Lupine Fest's most popular activities. We wanted to pass along the instructions for you to tie dye at home, even though we cannot all be together this year! Show us your tie dye on social media with the hashtag #AlbanyLupineFest!



## Materials:

Fabric dye (in multiple colors)\*

Soda Ash

Water

Plastic Bin

Rubber Gloves

Rubber bands or string

Gallon zip-lock bags or plastic grocery bags

**Items to dye** - Shirts, Onesies, Socks, Tapestries, etc. 100% natural fabrics such as cotton work best for tie dye. Synthetic fabrics like polyester likely won't absorb dye.

\*Dye kits are available to be purchased at most craft stores. Be sure to read the instructions first on the dye you purchase. Every dye process is a bit different based on the company. The instructions below are what we follow, the Soda Ash Pre-Soak Method. Using Jacquard Products- Procion MX Dye in Magenta 034, Lemon Yellow 004, and Turquoise 068. Check out their website for more information! <https://www.jacquardproducts.com/procion-mx>

**Set Up:** Find a space to work that will not be ruined by spilled dye, such as a grassy area outside or on a disposable plastic table cloth inside. Use a plastic bin to dye the items in - this will catch excess dye and help contain some mess.

**Step One: Soda Ash Soak** - This optional step\*\* makes the colors more vibrant. You can find soda ash at many craft supply and hardware stores.

- Fill your plastic bin with 1 gallon of water and 1 cup of soda ash. The ratio is 1 gallon to 1 cup - you can make more if needed! Mix with a gloved hand until the soda ash is dissolved.
- Soak the item you plan to dye in the soda ash solution for 15-20 minutes.
- Using gloved hands, remove shirts from the soda ash solution and wring them out over the bin.

\*\*If you choose to skip this step completely wet your items before proceeding, this enables the dye to soak into the items evenly.

**Step Two: Tie** - The internet is a great resource to find many different folding/tying patterns to get various dye outcomes. Check out YouTube, Pinterest and Google! Or create your own design!

- a. Once you have decided what pattern you would like to create, use rubber bands to create folds and bunches.
- b. Rubber bands are easiest to apply to shirts and most other items. However, string can be useful for larger projects such as sheets or tapestries.

**Step Three: Dye** - Be sure that you are in a space where spilled dye will not ruin anything! Before this step, prepare your dye solution based on its specific instructions.

- a. Once you are happy with all the ties and folds on your item, put on a pair of gloves.
- b. If available, place your item in a clean bin and begin applying your dye solutions to the item.
- c. Be sure to flip over your item and apply dye to both sides!



**Step Four: Set, Rinse and Wash** -

- a. Once you are happy with the dye distribution on your project, place it into a zip-lock or plastic grocery bag and seal or tie closed. Let the project sit over night to let the colors set.
- b. After 12-24 hours, rinse (wearing gloves!) the items under cool water until the water runs clear. While rinsing, remove rubber bands or string.
- c. Wash as normal with like colored items, and admire your unique artwork!

Show us your completed  
Tie Dye by posting  
pictures on Facebook or  
Instagram using the tag  
#AlbanyLupineFest

