

Dye

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A **dye** is a colored substance that has an affinity to the substrate to which it is being applied. The dye is generally applied in an aqueous solution, and may require a mordant to improve the fastness of the dye on the fiber.^[1]

Both dyes and pigments are colored because they absorb some wavelengths of light more than others. In contrast to dyes, pigments are insoluble and have no affinity for the substrate. Some dyes can be precipitated with an inert salt to produce a lake pigment, and based on the salt used they could be aluminum lake, calcium lake or barium lake pigments.



Yarn drying after being dyed in the early American tradition, at Conner Prairie living history museum.

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Natural

The majority of natural dyes are from plant sources: roots, berries, bark, leaves, and wood, fungi, and lichens. Textile dyeing dates back to the Neolithic period. Throughout history, people have dyed their textiles using common, locally available materials. Scarce dyestuffs that produced brilliant and permanent colors such as the natural invertebrate dyes Tyrian purple and crimson kermes were highly prized luxury items in the ancient and medieval world. Plant-based dyes such as woad, indigo, saffron, and madder were raised commercially and were important trade goods in the economies of Asia and Europe. Across Asia and Africa, patterned fabrics were produced using resist dyeing techniques to

control the absorption of color in piece-dyed cloth. Dyes from the New World such as cochineal and logwood were brought to Europe by the Spanish treasure fleets, and the dyestuffs of Europe were carried by colonists to America.

Dyed flax fibers have been found in the Republic of Georgia in a prehistoric cave dated to 36,000 BP.

^[2]^[3] Archaeological evidence shows that, particularly in India and Phoenicia, dyeing has been widely carried out for over 5,000 years. The dyes were obtained from animal, vegetable or mineral origin, with none to very little processing. By far the greatest source of dyes has been from the plant kingdom, notably roots, berries, bark, leaves and wood, but only a few have ever been used on a commercial scale.

The discovery of man-made synthetic dyes late in the 19th century ended the large-scale market for natural dyes.

Synthetic

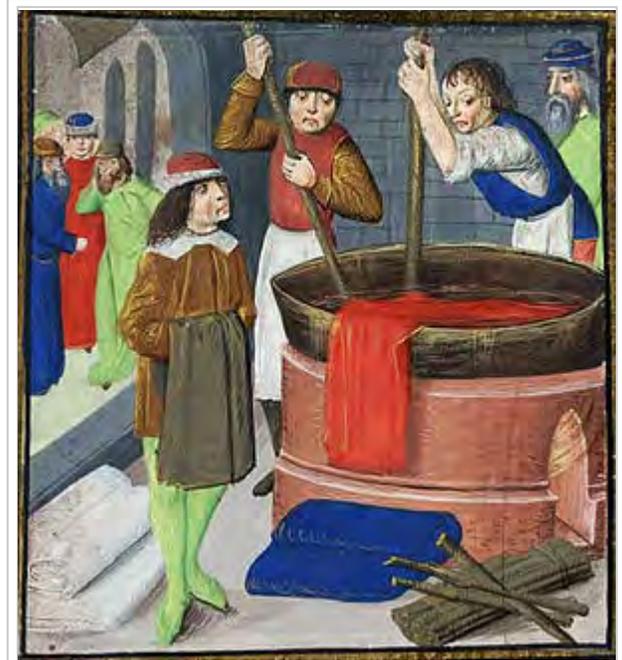
Synthetic dyes are man-made. These dyes are made from synthetic resources such as petroleum by-products and earth minerals.

The first human-made organic aniline dye, mauveine, was discovered serendipitously by William Henry Perkin in 1856, the result of a failed attempt at the total synthesis of quinine. Other aniline dyes followed, such as fuchsine, safranine, and induline. Many thousands of synthetic dyes have since been prepared.^[4]^[5]

Types

Dyes are classified according to their solubility and chemical properties.^[1]

Acid dyes are water-soluble anionic dyes that are applied to fibers such as silk, wool, nylon and modified acrylic fibers using neutral to acid dye baths. Attachment to the fiber is attributed, at least partly, to salt formation between anionic groups in the dyes and cationic groups in the fiber. Acid dyes are not substantive to cellulosic fibers. Most synthetic food colors fall in this category.



Dyeing wool cloth, 1482: from a French translation of Bartolomaeus Anglicus



Historical collection of over 10,000 dyes at Technical University Dresden, Germany

Basic dyes are water-soluble cationic dyes that are mainly applied to acrylic fibers, but find some use for wool and silk. Usually acetic acid is added to the dye bath to help the uptake of the dye onto the fiber. Basic dyes are also used in the coloration of paper.

Direct or substantive dyeing is normally carried out in a neutral or slightly alkaline dye bath, at or near boiling point, with the addition of either sodium chloride (NaCl) or sodium sulfate (Na₂SO₄) or sodium carbonate (Na₂CO₃). Direct dyes are used on cotton, paper, leather, wool, silk and nylon. They are also used as pH indicators and as biological stains.

Mordant dyes require a mordant, which improves the fastness of the dye against water, light and perspiration. The choice of mordant is very important as different mordants can change the final color significantly. Most natural dyes are mordant dyes and there is therefore a large literature base describing dyeing techniques. The most important mordant dyes are the synthetic mordant dyes, or chrome dyes, used for wool; these comprise some 30% of dyes used for wool, and are especially useful for black and navy shades. The mordant, potassium dichromate, is applied as an after-treatment. It is important to note that many mordants, particularly those in the heavy metal category, can be hazardous to health and extreme care must be taken in using them.

Vat dyes are essentially insoluble in water and incapable of dyeing fibres directly. However, reduction in alkaline liquor produces the water-soluble alkali metal salt of the dye, which, in this leuco form, has an affinity for the textile fibre. Subsequent oxidation reforms the original insoluble dye. The color of denim is due to indigo, the original vat dye.

Reactive dyes utilize a chromophore attached to a substituent that is capable of directly reacting with the fiber substrate. The covalent bonds that attach reactive dye to natural fibers make them among the most permanent of dyes. "Cold" reactive dyes, such as Procion MX, Cibacron F, and Drimarene K, are very easy to use because the dye can be applied at room temperature. Reactive dyes are by far the best choice for dyeing cotton and other cellulose fibers at home or in the art studio.

Disperse dyes were originally developed for the dyeing of cellulose acetate, and are water-insoluble. The dyes are finely ground in the presence of a dispersing agent and sold as a paste, or spray-dried and sold as a powder. Their main use is to dye polyester, but they can also be used to dye nylon, cellulose triacetate, and acrylic fibers. In some cases, a dyeing temperature of 130 °C (266 °F) is required, and a pressurized dyebath is used. The very fine particle size gives a large surface area that aids dissolution to allow uptake by the fiber. The dyeing rate can be significantly influenced by the choice of dispersing agent used during the grinding.

Azoic dyeing is a technique in which an insoluble azo dye is produced directly onto or within the fiber. This is achieved by treating a fiber with both diazoic and coupling components. With suitable adjustment of dyebath conditions the two components react to produce the required insoluble azo dye. This technique of dyeing is unique, in that the final color is controlled by the choice of the diazoic and coupling components. This method of dyeing cotton is declining in importance due to the toxic nature of the chemicals used.



RIT brand dye from mid-20th century Mexico, part of the permanent collection of the Museo del Objeto del Objeto

Sulfur dyes are inexpensive dyes used to dye cotton with dark colors. Dyeing is effected by heating the fabric in a solution of an organic compound, typically a nitrophenol derivative, and sulfide or polysulfide. The organic compound reacts with the sulfide source to form dark colors that adhere to the fabric. Sulfur Black 1, the largest selling dye by volume, does not have a well defined chemical structure.

Food dyes

One other class that describes the role of dyes, rather than their mode of use, is the food dye. Because food dyes are classed as food additives, they are manufactured to a higher standard than some industrial dyes. Food dyes can be direct, mordant and vat dyes, and their use is strictly controlled by legislation. Many are azo dyes, although anthraquinone and triphenylmethane compounds are used for colors such as green and blue. Some naturally occurring dyes are also used.

Other important dyes

A number of other classes have also been established, including:

- Oxidation bases, for mainly hair and fur
- Laser dyes:rhodamine 6G and coumarin dyes.^[6]
- Leather dyes, for leather
- Fluorescent brighteners, for textile fibres and paper
- Solvent dyes, for wood staining and producing colored lacquers, solvent inks, coloring oils, waxes.
- Contrast dyes, injected for magnetic resonance imaging, are essentially the same as clothing dye except they are coupled to an agent that has strong paramagnetic properties.^[7]
- Mayhem's dye, used in water cooling for looks, often rebranded RIT dye

Chemical classification

By the nature of their chromophore, dyes are divided into:^[8]

- Category:Acridine dyes, derivates of acridine
- Category:Anthraquinone dyes, derivates of anthraquinone
- Arylmethane dyes
 - Category:Diarylmethane dyes, based on diphenyl methane
 - Category:Triarylmethane dyes, derivates of triphenylmethane
- Category:Azo dyes, based on -N=N- azo structure
- Diazonium dyes, based on diazonium salts
- Nitro dyes, based on a -NO₂ nitro functional group
- Nitroso dyes, based on a -N=O nitroso functional group
- Phthalocyanine dyes, derivatives of phthalocyanine
- Quinone-imine dyes, derivatives of quinone
 - Category:Azin dyes
 - Category:Eurhodin dyes

- Category:Safranin dyes, derivatives of safranin
- Indamins
- Category:Indophenol dyes, derivatives of indophenol
- Category:Oxazin dyes, derivatives of oxazin
- Oxazone dyes, derivatives of oxazone
- Category:Thiazine dyes, derivatives of thiazine
- Category:Thiazole dyes, derivatives of thiazole
- Category:Safranin dyes, derivatives of safranin
- Xanthene dyes, derived from xanthene
 - Fluorene dyes, derivatives of fluorene
 - Pyronin dyes
 - Category:Fluorone dyes, based on fluorone
 - Category:Rhodamine dyes, derivatives of rhodamine

See also

- Biological pigment, any colored substance in organisms
- Blue Wool Scale
- Hair coloring
- J-aggregate
- Oxidant
- Phototendering
- Laser dyes
- List of dyes
- Natural dyes
- Pigments
 - Inorganic pigments
- Stain

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8. stainsfile.info (<http://stainsfile.info/StainsFile/dyes/dyes.htm>)

Further reading

- Abelshausen, Werner. *German History and Global Enterprise: BASF: The History of a Company* (2004) covers 1865 to 2000
- Beer, John J. *The Emergence of the German Dye Industry* (1959)

External links

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