# Reactive dye print paste

Dye based printing is the preferred method of printing within industry, often giving the best look, handle (feel) and colourfastness to the cloth it is applied to.

**Reactive dye print pastes** give bright colour and are **mainly used to print onto cotton, linen and other cellulose (plant) fibres** but will also dye some silks and wool. A catalogue of printed colours can be referred to in the print workshop and dye lab but must not be removed.

You are strongly advised and encouraged to keep thorough notes for any colour combinations and recipes you develop over your course of study, alongside a small fabric swatch, to help you establish your own colour reference library. You might use the page overleaf or invest in your own print/ dye notebook.

**Recipe:**

1. 1 – 5% grams of dye powder.
2. Hot water to paste.
3. Make up to 100 grams using the pre-made Reactive Thickener.

**Method:**

1. Gather your dye powder, mixing pot, measuring cylinder and stirrer.
2. Switch on the extraction, positioning in line with your mixing pot.
3. Measure out your dye powder – remember that 1 gram of dye powder will create a paler depth of shade compared to 5 grams of dye powder.
4. Add hot water to paste your dye powder, stirring well to ensure the mixture is dissolved.
5. Make up the dissolved dye solution to 100 grams using the pre-made Reactive Thickener, stirring thoroughly.
6. Print and dry.
7. Steam for 20 minutes in the atmospheric star steamer.

**Wash:**

1. Rinse in cold water until the water runs clear.
2. Rinse in a hot wash at 60*C with Metapex 26 detergent for 15 – 20 mins until the water runs clear.
3. Rinse in cold water to remove the detergent.
4. Dry and press.