

Heat transfer printing Disperse dyes

Disperse dyes can be used to sublimation print onto synthetic fabrics, like polyester and acrylic, using the heat transfer press. Disperse dyes, as their name suggests, will not dissolve in water.

It is important to remember that this process will reverse / mirror your designs, which may be particularly important when using text.

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 – 10% grams of dye powder.
2. 90 – 99 % mls of water.

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 water and dye powder – remember that 1 gram of dye powder will create a paler depth of shade compared to 10 grams of dye powder.
4. Using heavy weight cartridge paper, or wallpaper lining paper, hand paint your designs with the transfer inks and allow to dry.
5. Use the heat transfer press to transfer the design to synthetic fabrics, using the suggested temperatures below.

Suggested transfer press temperatures and times:

Fibre	Temperature	Time
Acetate	190°C	30 – 40 seconds
Acrylic	195°C	30 – 40 seconds
Lycra Mix	200°C	40 – 60 seconds
Nylon	190°C	40 – 50 seconds
Polyester	200°C	40 – 60 seconds
Polycotton	200°C	40 – 60 seconds