

## To Tie Dye For

In case you haven't noticed tie dye and hippie-inspired looks are bringing back the "summer of love" for a new generation. These brightly colored "one-of-a-kind" works of wearable art are a fun and creative project you can do yourself. I want to show you how to reinvent items we can find at Goodwill Retail Store and Donation Centers using the simplest dyeing techniques.



You'll need to look for all cotton garments, as they will hold the dye best. The t-shirt is the most obvious choice, but you can dye just about anything! Pants, shirts, socks, skirts, scarves, handkerchiefs and hats may be "retro" fitted. Everyone from celebrities to politicians to rock stars are sporting expensive versions of the looks we can create ourselves for just a couple of dollars.



### ***Let's go through our check list:***

1. GARMENTS TO TIE DYE (IMPORTANT—Make sure that it is at least 60% or more cotton. Less cotton means less absorption of the dye.)

2. RUBBER BANDS (This is what makes the one-of-a-kind designs. I got mine at the dollar store.)

3. DYE

4. EVERYTHING ELSE (depending on what methods you will use)

- Rubber Gloves – To protect your hands from the dye.
- Large Pot or Bucket – Used to mix the dye. It should be able to hold 3 – 5 gallons and it should be old so you don't care if it stains.

- Squirt or Spray Bottles – Used to apply some brands of dye.
- Long-Handles Utensil – An old spoon, B-B-Q tongs, etc. to stir the dye.
- Soda Ash – This is sodium carbonate which is used with some dyes to pre-treat the item you are tie-dyeing to help create more vibrant colors.
- Salt – Used with RIT dye to help make darker colors more vibrant.
- Plastic Bag – Some dyes require the dyed item to sit in plastic bag for approximately 24 hours.
- Newspaper and/or Plastic Garbage Bag – Used to protect your work area.
- Rags, Paper Towels, Cleanser – For quick clean up.



I bought two men's short sleeved ringer t-shirts, as well as a long sleeved cotton t-shirt at my local Goodwill Store and Donation Center for a total cost of \$8.47. I lucked out and found a tie dye kit at the local discount store for \$11.58. It came with everything needed to dye as many as eight garments if doing children's clothing (if dyeing adult clothing it did two short sleeved and one long sleeved shirt). I would recommend this for beginners, as there is no hot water involved and they supply plastic gloves too!



Of course if you're more experienced you can apply any fabric dye according to manufacturer's directions. This kit had three colors of dye, red blue and yellow. I thought that would be good because they are primary colors and you can combine them to create other colors. It utilizes little plastic applicator bottles, that I am sure could be reused for tie dyeing another time.



For my "target" effect tie dye, I pinched the flat t-shirt around the area of the heart, making sure to grab the bottom too. From there I just continued rubber banding until I had what looked like a pastry tube. Adding color to each section between the rubber bands gave me the finished result. Follow all manufacturers' instructions and you can't go wrong. I would also recommend going to the library or doing a web search for "tie dye projects". It will give you ideas for different ways to make designs on your own garments.



What are you waiting for? Get down to the Goodwill Retail Store and Donation Center nearest you and find some items to create "Tie Dye For" fashions at a fraction of the cost of their designer look a likes!

