

Tie-Dye Washing Instructions

Please read all instructions prior to beginning the washing process! You need to have an empty washing machine and dryer ready!

- 1.** Please wait at least **24-48 hours** before washing your shirt. Especially for reds and yellows, 48 hours for more vivid colors. It takes 24-48 hours for the dye to fully set into the shirt. Leave the shirt in the bag, lighter colors facing up, until you are ready to wash the shirt. Be sure to leave it in a sink or on a pan while waiting to wash. The dye will actually work better if you let it set longer, giving you better colors with sharper edges.
- 2.** Before handling the shirt, **WEAR GLOVES!** The dye that we are using is non-toxic, but it will stain your hands and clothing so please be careful when washing.
- 3.** While the shirt is still tied, it needs to be rinsed under cold, running water. The sink closest to the washing machine is usually best to use so less water has a chance to drip after rinsing. This should take you about three minutes. When you see very little dye running off the tied-up shirt, begin to gradually remove the rubber bands while still rinsing. Get as much dye out as possible this way. This should take about another five minutes. Immediately after rinsing, wring out excess water from the shirt, then wash the shirt **by itself** with cold water and detergent in the washing machine. Remember, good rinsing keeps the design from looking “muddy” and colors from running into each other.
- 4.** After the washing machine has finished, put your shirt into the dryer **by itself**. The dye will set to a permanent color with the heat of the dryer. If you let the shirt sit in the washing machine for a long time or do not dry the shirt, the colors will run together into a blurry design.
- 5.** After washing and drying, there will still be a little spot in the middle where the tie-dye was twisted up. Iron the shirt flat to remove the spot of twisted fabric.
- 6.** Your shirt is ready to wear! If you would like to upload a photo of your shirt, we would love to publish it on our website! Please include your child’s name and age and let us know if you would like a photo with your child in it.



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