



Wig Dyeing Guide

REFERENCE GUIDE BY
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Having trouble finding the right wig in the color you need? Don't worry, you can create some great custom colors using inexpensive craft dye and a few household items!

Wig fiber is often made of plastic, and so it's important to purchase an appropriate dye for your project! Dyes for "natural" fibers will not stick to your wig, so look for lines formulated specifically for polyester instead. iDye Poly and Rit DyeMore are two of the most popular options for dyeing wigs, and so we'll be walking through best practices with these two brands!

Rit DyeMore is a liquid dye available in 12 colors. Rit is easy to mix and save for later thanks to its resealable bottle. During our tests we found that RIT was far less smelly than iDye Poly, however RIT's black and some darker tones required far more dye in order to achieve a deep color.

iDye Poly comes in a sealed, dissolvable powder packet in 16 colors. This dye is easy to use, since you can easily toss the entire container into your water! However, it's much harder to separate portions of dye for color mixing or to save for later. To do so, snip open the packet corner and empty the powder into a plastic bag.

During our tests we found that iDye was more potent than Rit for some tones, but was more difficult to wash from the fiber and required more ventilation.

Before getting started, you'll need to select the appropriate color dye for your wig. Remember that dye can only darken or enhance your wig's color; it is not possible to create a lighter color with a dark wig. However, you can "overdye" an already-colored wig in order to achieve a new tone. For instance, dunking a pink wig into a blue dye bath will produce a lavender color. The longer you keep the wig submerged, the closer to your dye bath color the wig will become.

Check out following image for our ultimate wig dye color chart! For these tests we used 2 cups of water with 1 teaspoon of Rit DyeMore or $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon of iDye Poly, heated to a simmer (180° F) unless otherwise stated. We also used three brands of pure white fiber: Arda Wigs, EpicCosplay Wigs, and an alternative Asian brand called L-email. All three brands absorbed the dye in a similar way, and looked nearly indistinguishable after the dye bath. We could see some slight variation when placed under a scanner, but this should not discourage you from attempting to dye your favorite brands!

MATERIALS

1) Hair dye in color(s) of your choice 2) Paper towels 3) Large cooking pot not used for food 4) Tongs 5) Spoon or wooden dowel 6) Nearby window for ventilation 7) Dish soap 8) Gloves 9) Flat iron and combs

Nº1

Prepare your work area and your wig. Your wig should be free of any oils or product that can interfere with the dyeing process, so if it has been previously worn, be sure to wash it in soap and water. Remember that dye is not food-safe; anything that touches your dye cannot be used later for cooking or food storage! It's a great idea to invest in a dye-only cookpot for your projects. Dye can be smelly and irritating, so be sure to open a window for ventilation, especially if you are using iDye Poly. Gloves and paper towels are also a great idea to protect your counter and hands from dye stains.

Nº2

Fill your pot with enough water to completely submerge your wig. You want your wig to be able to float freely in the pot since wig fiber will discolor if it touches the bottom of the heated pot for too long!

Nº3

Add your dye to the dyebath and thoroughly mix. Rich, deep colors require more dye, while pastels require much less than you think — as little as 1/10 of a packet or bottle. Long wigs will also require slightly more dye than short wigs as there is more fiber to color. A pack of iDye or a bottle of Rit can dye up to 2 pounds of material, so consider the weight and volume of your wig when measuring out the amount of your dye. One-third or half of a pack or bottle should be sufficient for most projects; however, if attempting to achieve a very bold or dark color, always err on the side of more.

Nº4

Polyester-formulated dye activates at a higher temperature than natural dye. For best results, heat your dye to simmering or just below boiling — around 160°-180° F. **Don't have a dye pot? If your fiber only needs a quick, couple-second dunk, try pouring your simmering water into a different container before adding your dye and fiber. The water will still be hot enough to activate the dye.*

Nº5

Perform a test with a sample weft in order to determine how long it will take to dye your wig the desired shade. Remove the weft, wash it, and allow it to fully dry in order to determine the sample's color.

Nº6

Dampen your wig with water and then completely submerge in the dye bath. For a lighter color, remove the wig within a few seconds or under a minute. For a deeper color, keep submerged for over five minutes. Gently stir your wig in order to help the dye evenly absorb, but try not to tangle the fibers or else you'll have difficulty combing them out later.

**Having trouble quickly dunking your wig for a light tone? Try adding significantly less dye or try turning down the heat to a cozy 120° F. This will allow you to keep the wig underwater for longer without darkening the color. Refer to our above chart for the approximate color you can achieve with this under-heated dye.*

Nº7

Remove your wig and run it under warm water. Add dish soap and massage it through all fibers before running it under the water again. Repeat this step as many times as necessary until the water runs clear.

Nº8

Your wig fibers will be bent in new and fun directions thanks to the heat, so it'll need a little restyling. Allow the wig to fully dry first and then comb out any large tangles with a wide-toothed comb. Once detangled, straighten the fibers with a flat iron or a hot blow-dryer in a pinch. While heated, run a fine-tooth comb through the hair in order to force the hair straight. Repeat several times until your wig is once again straight.



IDYE POLY COLOR CHART

WHITE WIG FIBER IN 1/8 TSP DYE AND 2 CUPS WATER, HEATED AT SIMMERING UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

	PINK	RED	ORANGE	YELLOW	GREEN	BLUE	VIOLET	BLACK
ARDA WIGS 10 SECONDS								
EPIC COSPLAY 10 SECONDS								
L'EMAIL WIGS 10 SECONDS								
ARDA WIGS 5 MINUTES								
EPIC COSPLAY 5 MINUTES								
L'EMAIL WIGS 5 MINUTES								
UNDER-HEATED DYE 1 MINUTE AT 120°F								