

Rit tan dying.

This is what I do and it works for me - in our water in Nebraska City - your results may vary.

One bottle of Rit #16 tan dye will over dye approximately 8 yards of fabric. Less if you are over dyeing darker fabrics and more if you are over dyeing all light fabrics. Yes, I mix light and dark. But then I also pre wash all my fabric. I feel pre washed fabric accepts the dye better as the sizing is gone.

I prefer the tan color of the liquid over the powder - the powder seems to have a more pink tan shade.

I use the hot/warm setting and fill the washer tub with hot water, add the liquid dye (shake well before adding) before it begins to agitate. The fabric to be dyed must be wet, so I put water in the utility sink next to the washer and soak the pre-washed fabrics until the washer fills, I squeeze out excess water and add the darker fabrics first, let the washer agitate while adding fabric - open out the fabric as you put it in the washer - don't put in folded or wadded fabric as it won't dye evenly. Let the washing machine go through all the cycles. Toss in the dryer, I watch the dryer closely so the fabric does not over dry and set in wrinkles.

Rit dye is NOT permanent - no matter what you do it it - or so I have found. It even fades on the shelf along the fold line - but this is after several years of age. I just cut around the fade line if it bothers me, sometimes I just leave the lighter area - kind of interesting look.

I mostly love the way the tan Rit dye mellows out fabric - takes the edge off so it doesn't look so new or white.

One more thing - I would recommend washing jeans or dark towels (or light something with bleach - I don't do this, but if you have a new washer you may want to) behind dying to be sure all the dye is gone - the dye may slightly darken the enamel tub in your washer or the agitator (plastic), but it is a small price for me - the washer will eventually get replaced (nothing lasts as long as it should anymore) and I will dye in a new one too, because I love the mellow look of my quilts and that is most important to me. No one but me sees the inside of my washer!

I don't know how to do this in a front loading washing machine.

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