

## Mordanting Silk

Art 185LJ 2024

You need:

Your silk fiber/yarn/fabric/clothing

Detergent, for example "Unicorn power scour"

Alum (aluminum sulfate)

**IMPORTANT! When you clean and dye silk materials, don't boil the material. Keep the temperature below 170 F.**

### 1. Measure

Weigh the silk (when it is dry). You will need 15% of alum of the weight of your material. If you have 100g fiber, use 15g mordant.

### 2. Clean ("scouring") the material

Clean the textile using a pH neutral detergent. "Unicorn power scour" or "Synthrapol" for example. If you are washing fabric, it's OK to use a washing machine, if you are washing a piece of clothing you might need to hand wash it.

### 3. Mix and water and alum in pot

Use a pot big enough to allow your textiles to move around in the pot. Fill with water, put the alum in it, stir well.

### 4. Simmer the material

Put the textiles in and bring up to around 170 F or less. Let simmer a little, move the material carefully to make sure the alum reaches all parts.

### 5. Wait

Turn off the heat. Leave the silk in the alum water for several hours, overnight for example.

### 6. Rinse

Rinse very well.

### 7. Dye or dry

You can now dye the textile or let it dry until you are ready to use it.