

Dyeing in your washing machine for convenience and pleasure with DEKA series „L“ and DEKA aktuell

It's so simple and fun to dye many types of fabric in your washing machine using DEKA series „L“ and DEKA aktuell. Both are specially designed for dyeing larger pieces of material, providing very even colour to any size project.

1. The dyes

DEKA series „L“ and DEKA aktuell are perfect for use in the washing machine. Of the two, however, DEKA series „L“ is the less colourfast, although very easy to use. With an additional bath in the fixative Nr.111 „L“, fabric dyed with DEKA series „L“ may be washed in water up to 30°C. To dye projects which are most colourfast (machine-washable under the highest temperatures), use DEKA aktuell.

2. The fabrics

All white or light-coloured natural fibres (i.e. cotton, linen, batiste, flax as well as viscose and rayon) can be dyed perfectly in the washing machine. It is not advisable to dye silk and wool in the washing machine; so dyeing these fibres should be done by hand. Synthetic fabrics do not absorb the dye and mixed fabrics (i.e. 40% polyester and 60% cotton) only absorb the dye partially and unevenly. The higher the percentage of synthetic material within the mixed fabric, the weaker the impact of the dyes. Make sure to check the label of the project to be dyed before beginning.

If the fabric has been chemically treated (sizing, for example) or previously washed with fabric softener, wash the fabric thoroughly before starting. Keep an eye out for spots in the material, because spots will not be covered or „overdyed“. It is often the case that spots form which only become visible through dyeing, particularly in textiles which have been stored for some time. In addition, dyeing will not completely cover areas which are simply worn away, although dyeing may aid in evening out the colour of the fabric.

Fabrics which are usually washed at 60°C should also be dyed at this temperature. These are generally the best fabrics for dyeing. It is also possible to dye at 30°C for fabrics normally washed at this temperature, but it is best to dye these fabrics with DEKA aktuell.

When dyeing fabrics which are already a certain colour remember that the old colour and the new dye will mix, leading to a third new colour. It is only possible to go from light to darker, thus a purple T-shirt cannot be dyed yellow.

3. The washing machine

The rubber gasket around the door of the washing machine may become discoloured. This is only an aesthetic problem, for it will not rub off or damage any other laundry. Nevertheless, it may be wisest to use your own washing machine to dye with.

The normal liquid capacity of an average washing machine (with 4,5 kg load space) is approximately 15 to 20 litres. The maximum amount of fabric that can be dyed in these washers is 1kg dry weight, in order to let the dye circulate freely and evenly. Make sure to weigh the material before dyeing.

Do not set the machine to a cost-efficient or energy-saving cycle. The higher the temperature and the water content, the better the dyeing. The minimum dyeing time is 30 minutes. In some machines the main cycle may be shorter than 30 minutes. In this case, set the dial back to the wash mode once again, before the dyebath is pumped out. Allow the washer to complete its program, including a rinse with cold water. This will ensure enough time, and an adequately rinsed project as well.

4. The dyeing process

DEKA series „L“: For the desired colour intensity, see the chart below for instructions on the exact amount of salt and dye.

Lay out the fabric to be dyed and put the required amount of salt into the fabric, folding it into a loose bundle. Place the fabric/salt bundle into the washer. Dissolve the fabric dye in 2 litres of hot water, prepared separately. Set the machine to the main washing cycle (without a „prewash“) and to the desired temperature, according to the fabric's needs. After the water has finished filling the machine, add the dye. With 1 litre of warm water, rinse out any extra dye from the pot in which the dye was prepared, and add this to the wash as well.

Allow the machine to wash as normal and program a cold rinse cycle for the end, to rinse the fabrics.

DEKA aktuell: For the necessary amounts of salt, dye and fixative to achieve a specific colour intensity, see the chart below.

Lay out the fabric to be dyed and put the required amount of salt into the fabric, folding it into a loose bundle. Place the fabric/salt bundle into the washer.

Dissolve the dye in 2 litres of hot water, prepared separately. Set the washing machine to the main washing cycle (without a „prewash“) and to the temperature at which the fabric is normally washed. After the water has completed filling the basket, add the prepared dye. Dissolve the proper amount of fixative in 2 litres of hot water. After the dye has been in the wash for 5 minutes, begin to slowly add the fixative. With 1 litre of warm water, rinse the pot in which the fixative was prepared, and add this to the wash.

Allow the wash cycle to complete itself. To make sure all extra dye is washed out of the fabric as well as the washing machine, wash the project one more time, this time with a detergent for fine fabrics, on the gentle cycle.

Results from dyeing are dependent on the amount of powder in the dyebath, the amount of dyeing time, the temperature of the dyebath, and the fabric used, as well as other factors.

5. The drying process

When the final project is hung up to dry, make sure that it is clipped as close as possible to the edges. Do not fold it over a clothesline, for the dye will not dry evenly and will leave a darkened stripe where the fabric was folded. If the project is hung up inside, cover the floor with plastic, to protect it from any drops of excess dye. Do not dry the project in the direct sun or near a heat source. It is impossible to discern the final colour of the fabric when it is wet; it is always darker in this stage.

6. For subsequent washing

Fabric dyed with DEKA series „L“ should always be washed separately and with added care. If the project has been treated with fixative Nr.111 „L“ after it has been dyed, it can be washed more easily, with the washing machine set for up to 30°C.

Projects made with DEKA aktuell should be washed separately the first two times. After that, they can be added to your regular wash at temperatures up to 95°C. Please use a detergent for fine fabrics.

Please note: Avoid direct skin contact with the concentrated dye. While working with DEKA series „L“ and DEKA aktuell wear rubber gloves. In rare cases, direct skin contact with the dye might lead to allergic reactions. Do not inhale the dye powder. Keep away from children.

Other DEKA products

DEKA-Waschmaschinenfarbe, DEKA dyes for the washer, the package with the practical, individual portions.

Intensity chart for washing machines with 4,5 kg load space						
DEKA <u>aktuell</u> for 1 kg of fabric, dry weight				DEKA series „L“ for 1 kg of fabric, dry weight		
	Dye	Fixative	Salt		Dye	Salt
Brights	4 Packets	4 Packets	600 g	Brights	6 Packets	12 tbsp
Half-tones	2 Packets	2 Packets	300 g	Half-tones	4 Packets	8 tbsp
Pastels	1 Packets	1 Packets	150 g	Pastels	2 Packets	4 tbsp
for Bright Black	5 Packets	5 Packets	750 g			



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