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Dyeing Basket Reed using PRO MX Reactive Dyes

Please read directions carefully before starting.

Use PRO MX to dye basket reed. Always do test samples before working on a large project. For additional information, visit our website at www.prochemical.com.

- ✘ Wear rubber gloves, apron or old clothes.
- ✘ Utensils used for dyeing should never be used for food preparation.

Supplies

PRO MX Reactive Dye
PRO Dye Activator or Soda Ash
Common Salt

Procedure

1. Soak the reed in 1 gallon (4 liters) of room temperature 75° to 95°F (24° to 35°C) water, using a plastic or enamel container for the dye bath. Reed tends to float and should be weighted down. Use a clean brick, stone or water-filled and sealed glass or plastic jars.

2. Dissolve the salt from the chart below, in one quart (1 liter) of HOT 120° to 140°F (49° to 60°C) water. Add dissolved salt to the reed and stir well.

For 1 pound of basket reed:

Water	1 gallon, or enough to cover the reed (1 liter)
Common Salt	1 cup (299 gm)
PRO MX Reactive Dye	approximately 3 tsp (7.5 gm)
PRO Dye Activator or Soda Ash	¾ cup (115 gm)

3. Dissolve the dye. Measure the dye powder, from the chart above, in 1 cup (250 ml) of room temperature 75° to 95°F (24° to 35°C) water. Thoroughly dissolve the dye and add to the dye bath. At this point, check the color of your dye bath. Dip a strip of white 100% cotton fabric into the bath. It's important to remember that wet fabric is approximately 2 shades darker than the final dried reed. If necessary, adjust the color by adding more dissolved dye and stir well.

4. Let the reed soak overnight in the dye bath. Check the color at this point by drying a short piece of the reed. If desired, more dissolved dye can be added. If so, the reed needs to soak overnight again, before continuing the dyeing process.

5. Fix the color. Dissolve the PRO Dye Activator or Soda Ash from the chart above, in 1 cup (250 ml) warm 100° to 110° F (38° to 43°C) water. Add to the dye bath and stir well. Allow the reed to soak overnight.

6. Pour off the dye bath and rinse reed until the water runs clear and air dry. The reed is now ready for weaving.