



Dyes and Pigments: The Basics

Although many modern dyes are synthetic and mechanically produced, historically our ancestors managed to obtain a wide spectrum of colours from mineral and animal sources long before chemical equivalents were manufactured.

Dyes and pigments are words used loosely to describe colours in food, fabrics, paints, and other materials, but in reality their meanings are distinct. Dyes are coloured substances

that change the colour of other materials

permanently. They are soluble substances, though some become insoluble after they have been applied. They have a special affinity for the substrate they colour. In contrast, pigments are insoluble colour particles that require a binding agent to hold them onto the surface of the material being coloured.



Various Dyed Wools



Madder root laked