

A top-down photograph of a glass jar with a lid, several pieces of white fabric, and a large pile of green ivy leaves and stems on a dark wooden surface. The jar is on the left, the fabric is in the upper middle, and the ivy is on the right and bottom. The text 'Solar Dye Jar' is overlaid in the center.

Solar Dye Jar

Sunny Bank Mills

Solar Dye Jar

At Sunny Bank Mills we used to dye fabric khaki green. This would've been using synthetic dye, but you can dye fabric naturally using plants!

This method of natural dye is called the **Solar Dye Jar** method and uses the heat of the sun to trap the colour of the plants into the material.

These are the materials you will need to Solar Jar Dye...



Materials

- **Dye-stuff-** There's lots of materials that can be used to dye fabric green. We have foraged for some ivy, but you can also use Nettles, Onion Skins, Pine Needles, Rosemary or Sunflowers
- **Fabric-** Natural dye does not soak into synthetic materials so pure cotton, wool or silk is best to use.
- **A larger kilner style jar-** This jar must have a seal on
- **Warm Water**
- **A nice sunny window spot**





Step 1

Forage for your dye-stuff materials- we went into our local woodland and looked for ivy- this plant can normally be found wrapped around trees or even houses!



Step 2

Soak your fabric- it always helps to soak your fabric before putting it in with the dye material as the colour soaks into the fabric better.



Step 3

Fill your jar $\frac{3}{4}$ full with warm water add your material and then add you dye stuff- you need to allow the fabric and dye-stuff space to move so don't pack it too tightly.

Top tip- the less fabric and more dye-stuff you use the stronger the colour.



Step 4

Take your jar and pop it on a sunny windowsill in a room or even outside! The heat from the sun helps the colour soak into the fabric.



Step 5

Check back on it in a week and shake the jar do this until you are happy with the colour- we recommend 3 weeks.



Step 6

Leave to air dry and enjoy the magic of natural dye! The colour will fade overtime especially if kept in direct sunlight.