

How to Use BENGALA Thickener

The thickener is methyl cellulose (made from plant pulp). It is safe to use, as it is a non-toxic, food-grade ingredient. You can make paints by adding thickener to Bengala Mud Dye, Susuzome Soot Dye, or Aijozome Indigo Dye. Using thickened dyes makes it easier to use the dyes for katazome (stencils), fabric painting, and block printing. Using thickener will also prevent bleeding and produce more saturated colors. You can develop new creations with Bengala dyeing by making patterns or drawing pictures onto the fabric.

How to make Bengala paint:

1. Shake the bottle of the dye very well.
2. Add the thickener. The approximate ratio is 65 ml (about 1/4 c) of dye to 1 g (about 1/2 teaspoon) of thickener.
 - a. When adding thickener to a 65ml mini bottle. The included cap contains just the right amount of thickener. Using the included cap, the amount of thickener equivalent to a heaping capful is suitable for mixing in a 65ml Bengala Dye mini bottle.
 - b. When adding thickener to a pallet or a vessel with a wide mouth. Pour into your vessel the amount of dye that you plan to make into the paint. Add thickener in the same ratio amount above.
3. After adding the thickener, mix immediately. If you don't mix well it, the mixture may become clumpy.
4. After a few minutes of stirring or shaking, the mixture will become thick. Then let it sit for at least 15 minutes.
5. The paint is ready to use!

How to store the thickened dye:

- Seal the vessel/bottle to avoid exposure to air.
- Keep in a cool, dark place, avoiding high temperature/humidity.
- If you add the thickener to Aijozome Indigo, store in refrigerator as it is perishable.
- Stir the paint well before use as the components separate in a couple of days. The separation does not affect product quality.

Ingredient: Carboxymethyl cellulose (cmc)

Loop of the Loom

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