

Orcolitefast™ & Orcomine™ Direct Dye Description, Storage, Handling, and Preparation

Description

Direct dyes offer a very large shade range and are fairly easy to apply to cellulose with a relatively short dyeing time. Although the washfastness properties of direct dyes are not as good as reactive dyes, a fixative may be applied after the dyeing cycle to improve the washfastness.

Orcolitefast™ Direct dyes for cellulose possess excellent light fastness properties. Certain dyestuffs within this range are suitable for high-temperature dyeing of cellulose/polyester blends.

Orcomine™ Direct dyes possess excellent leveling properties, are highly tinctoral, have fair to good lightfastness, and are economical.

Storage

Orco™ Direct dyes should be kept in a dry area and elevated so container is not in direct contact with the cold ground which may cause condensation and eventual caking of the dye. Each drum of dye should be spaced far enough away from each other to prevent cross-contamination when drum lids are removed and the dye is transferred. All dyes should be stored in a separate room from chemicals to avoid contamination from air-borne dye dust. Drum lids should be replaced immediately and sealed to prevent cross-contamination and minimize moisture buildup. Utensils used to remove the dye from the drum should be perfectly clean of any dirt, chemicals, or other dye.

Handling

As with any dye or fine-particle material, the proper NIOSH-approved respiratory mask should be used when handling dyes. Operator should review Safety Data Sheet (SDS) and wear proper protective clothing allowing no direct skin contact.

Preparation

Soft water should be added slowly to preweighed dye in suitable *bail-up* container and then add steam slowly to prevent excessive frothing. The weight ratio of water to dye should be a minimum of 15 to obtain a good solution. Boil the dye solution or add more steam to insure all dye is completely dissolved into solution. Make sure the steam is not generated from hard water or water which contains metals or high levels of chlorine. If necessary, agitate with a mixer and dilute with hot water. Before adding to the dyebath, the dye solution should first be passed through a fine-meshed screen.

Shelf Life

The shelf-life of **Orco™** Direct dyes in a sealed container is estimated at 5-8 years for powders and 1 year for liquids when stored in a cool, dry, and dark environment.