

Eco Print Road Trip Kit



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What is Eco Printing?

Eco printing is a practice where leaves are used to print on natural fibers like paper, silk, cotton, linen, hemp and wool. Leaves are pressed between layers of fibers and are processed in a heated dye bath that contains iron or copper. The tannin in the leaves reacts with the heat, water and minerals, and releases the image on the fiber. Variations of these ingredients with the leaves in the dye bath produce magical and interesting results.

Suggestions:

Practice eco printing outdoors or in a very well ventilated area. Use an exhaust fan if processing indoors. Always wear gloves and old clothing for protections.



Recipe for Eco Printing on Paper with Ceramic Tiles

Eco printing can be done with simple ingredients that you can find easily and inexpensively found at thrift and discount stores. These items are easy to take with you on your next adventure.

Supplies List

- Rubber Gloves
- Iron Pills - in the vitamin section of your store
- Water
- Plant Material
- Large stew pot with a lid that will NO LONGER BE USED FOR FOOD
- Long aluminum tongs
- 6" Ceramic tiles (qty at least 4)
- Rubber Bands (approximately 3" size)
- Old towels
- Heat source - (I've use a hotplate, stove, outdoor fire, and propane grill)



Heated Dye Bath: Start by filling your stew pot 3/4 full of water, add 6-8 iron pills to the water, place the lid on the pot and bring to a boil.

Bundles: Place one ceramic tile on your surface and begin to layer plant material and 2 sheets of paper alternately, ending with a ceramic tile on top of the stack. (I prefer to have no more that 8 stacks in my ceramic bundles.).

Wrap your bundle with rubber bands placing one on each edge of the tile and one in the center on both sides.



Place in the stew pot and boil for 1 hour. Use tongs to remove your bundles from the pot and allow to cool slightly. Open your bundles and carefully remove your papers. Lay them flat to dry and then press between layers of card stock and heavy objects if preferred.

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Eco printing with a Rusty Can

SuppliesList:

Rusty Can

Long thin strip of fabric at least 100" long

Paper cut or folded to the width of your can

Gather an empty vegetable can that small enough to be immersed in your stew pot when it is 3/4 filled with water. Remove the top and the bottom of the can (save the lids!) You MUST use a can opener that leaves the edges smooth. The sharp edges of a rusty can are dangerous and should not be used. Always wear gloves when eco printing. Don't worry that your can is not rusty. It will become beautifully rusted quickly in the eco print process. Leaving it outside for a few days will also help.



Fold or cut your paper to the width of the rusty can. Spritz with water and add your leaves. Layer them between the paper as you fold it. Experiment with facing the leaves up and down for varied results. Roll the paper around your can and secure with your long strip fabric knotting it at the end.



Eco printing with a Rusty Can Lids

Use the lids of your cans with your ceramic tiles to create something fun! See the diagram below for layering your leaves and your can lids between the ceramic tile bundle.

Ceramic Tile

Paper

Leaves

Can

Leaves

Paper

Leaves

Can Lid

Leaves

Paper

Ceramic Tile on bottom



You can continue layering until your bundle is about 2" thick. Wrap your bundle with rubber bands placing one on each edge and one through the middle on both sides. Place in your stew pot and boil for 1 hour. Use tongs to remove your bundle from the pot, allow to cool slightly and open your bundles carefully. Lay your papers flat to dry and then press flat if desired.

Congratulations! You are now an Eco Print Artist!

Thank you for the opportunity to share my simple process with you. I hope you enjoy creating beautiful eco prints IN nature WITH nature. Please feel free to email me with any questions.

Kindest regards, Deb
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