

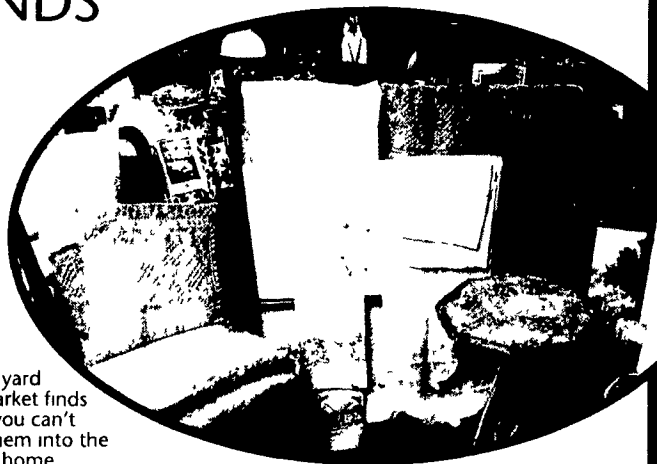
The Thrill OF THE Hunt

GIVE
A NEW
LIFE
TO
YARD
SALE
AND
FLEA
MARKET
FINDS

Summertime is the season of lazy days, barefoot walks, picnics—but most importantly, it's the season of bargains! Bargains! BARGAINS!! Hidden treasures can be found at every yard sale, garage sale and flea market. But what do you do with those random items that you found for a fantastic price? How can you coordinate them with your home? You can use them to reinvent the look of your favorite, or not-so-favorite room, just by using a little imagination and dye.

Dye-stain the beat-up table that overstayed its welcome in someone's living room, and turn it into a colorful showpiece that adds pizzazz to your decor. Accent your room with dyed throw pillows, lamp shades and picture frames. Give faded lace tablecloths or curtains new life with a splash of color, or keep that "antique" look by dyeing it lightly. Add a variety of color and texture to a room by dyeing towels, sheets, blankets and throw rugs.

And don't forget to think creatively! An old mirror may need only a colorful refurbished frame to look terrific over your dresser. A beat-up wooden chest can become a comfortable seat at the foot of your bed or under a window. A scratched telephone stand can be trimmed with a vibrantly dyed dustskirt and serve as a new vanity table. A discarded end table might be just the right bedside stand, just use Rit Dye to color-match a slipcover for it. Did you find several different long-lost kitchen chairs? Create a full set of personalized chairs, color coordinated, with just a sprucing up of dye! The trick is to keep your eyes open for new ideas everywhere—you can transform someone else's castaways into exquisite prized possessions!



Even the best yard sale or flea market finds are useless if you can't incorporate them into the decor of your home.



Entire rooms can be furnished using dye to color coordinate yard sale finds.

THE HOW-TOS OF TURNING TRASH INTO TREASURES

Add a splash of color to lamp shades and lace, revive sheets and pillow shams, accent frames and furniture with dye! It's an easy and affordable way to add warmth and charm to any room.

A splash of dye can transform hand-me-down items into treasured accessories.



DYEING FABRIC

- You can dye fabric using one of three methods: in the washing machine, in a sink or bucket or on the stove top.
- Soak fabric in plain water before immersing it in the dye bath, then follow package directions.
- You can dye most washable fabric, including cotton, linen, silk, wool, ramie blends, rayon, nylon or synthetic blends. The only exceptions are polyester and acrylic which don't take dye well.
- For best color results when dyeing fabric containing cotton, rayon, ramie or linen, add one to two cups of salt to the dye bath.

- Since you may not know the fabric content of many yard sale finds, check the color often. If the color is not as deep as you want it, remove the item, and try dissolving more dye in the dye bath before reimmersing the item.
- Take items out of the dye bath when they look a little darker than you want—colors will lighten as they dry.
- For the deepest color results, use the hottest water that is safe for the fabric. The longer the fabric remains in the dye bath, the deeper the resulting color. Items can remain in the bath up to one hour as long as the water remains hot and the item receives constant agitation or stirring.
- When dyeing colored fabric, dye will mix with the original fabric color to produce a new color. For instance, red dye over blue fabric will produce purple.
- Print fabric will absorb dye colors in the light areas, but will not become solid. The print pattern will still show through.

Helpful hint: Rit Super Stain Remover, Rust Remover and Whitener and Brightener have been specially formulated to remove a variety of fabric disasters including stains, yellowing, color bleeding and rust marks—an important step for sprucing up rummage sale finds. Unlike most bleaches, these products don't damage fabric fibers, making them the perfect choice for restoring vintage items. Make sure whites are their whitest and colors their brightest before dyeing to ensure maximum success. These products can also give a new lease on life to items you decide to leave in their natural color.

DYEING METAL

- Brush the metal with a metal primer and let dry. Then brush on white gesso primer, and allow it to completely dry.
- Use a paintbrush to paint on liquid dye straight from the bottle.

LUSTROUS LAMP SHADES

- Dissolve dye in water according to package directions.
 - Dip an ordinary domestic sponge in dye and apply color to fabric or paper lamp shades using long sweeping strokes.
 - You may get a little streaking on the first coat, so let it completely dry and add more coats until you achieve the desired color.
- Additional tip:** Once the base color of the lamp shade has dried, patterns can be created using stamps and stencils with a different color of dye.

DYEING WOOD

- Before applying dye, strip all paint, varnish or wax from furniture or wood item.
- Also, remove dirt or grease from surface with a warm, sudsy cloth. Then rinse well and allow to dry.
- Dissolve powder in one pint of simmering (not boiling) water in a saucepan on your stove. With liquid dye, combine equal parts dye and water, then bring to a simmer.
- Test the color using a paintbrush or sponge on the underside or back of the item, and allow it to dry. For deeper color, add more dye. For lighter color, add more hot water. The stained surface will appear slightly darker when wet.
- Apply the warm dye solution to the surface with a paintbrush or sponge, using even strokes.
- For smaller projects, such as baskets, mix the dye solution in a sink or tub, and dip items directly into the dye bath.
- If the color appears too light when dry, apply another coat. To make the color lighter, go over the surface of the article with water and clean cloth.
- To protect and seal in color, coat with a polyurethane finish, clear varnish or shellac.
- Dyeing wood allows its natural grain to shine through.

For more home decorating ideas write to:
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