

DIY Natural Colourants

Here is a quick reference guide to ingredients that can be used as [natural colourants](#). This list is by no means comprehensive, but most of the items are easy to source and use. Now you can safely colour your DIY creations with natural and friendly colourants.

Natural Colour Shades

We have listed them as 'shades' because unlike artificial colourants, natural colourants vary considerably depending on the ingredients they are combined with and the amount used.

Natural Black Shades

[Iron oxide - Lavanya black](#) - although the particles are insoluble in water and oil mediums, the oxides will still yield a strong colour in the liquid. Particles will sink to the bottom and only very small amounts are needed to achieve a good colour. Use titanium dioxide to lighten. We recommend you use a paper towel or other disposable cloth to clean up afterwards, as oxides may stain.

[Henna black](#) - produces a black colour with a very slight reddish tinge. Henna is mostly used as a hair colourant but can also be used in DIY creations.

[Activated charcoal](#) - gives a solid black or dark grey colour to products.

Natural Blue Shades

[German chamomile oil](#) - German chamomile has a stunning bluey green hue which may be used to very lightly colour DIY creations.

Powdered [blue cornflowers](#) - infuse in water or oil for a gentle blue colour.

[Spirulina powder](#) - gives a light bluish green.

Natural Brown Shades

[Cinnamon powder](#) - varies from a dark tan to brown (warning: can be an irritant to sensitive skin, test first)

[Cacao powder](#) and [cocoa powder](#) - gives a beautiful, natural deep brown.

Finely ground coffee varies from brown to black and can be used as an exfoliate or to add brown speckles.

[Olive leaf powder](#) - a warm greeny brown.

Natural Green Shades

[German chamomile oil](#) - German chamomile has a stunning bluey green hue which may be used to very lightly colour DIY creations.

Cucumber (pureed) - bright to pale green.

[Green kaolin clay](#) and [African Green Clay](#) - both lend a natural light green and can be added to oils or water.

[Green tea](#) (powdered) - gives a brownish-greenish colour and can produce a speckled effect.

[Kelp](#) - dark green colour.

[Spirulina powder](#) - gives a light bluish green.

[Broccoli powder](#) - gives a solid green.

[Kale powder](#) - gives a light green colour

Natural Orange Shades

[Calendula petals](#) - can vary from a pinkish to a yellowish orange to pink-orange. Can be infused in oils or added as a powder to soaps.

Carrot juice - gives a strong orange colour and can be added water. Contains beta carotene.

[Paprika](#) - deep orangey red colour which can be infused in oils or water. Warning: can be an irritant to sensitive skin.

Pumpkin (pureed) - for a deeper shade of orange.

Natural Pink Shades

[Pink Kaolin clay](#) – a natural pink; can be added to oil or water.

[Hibiscus powder](#) or [hibiscus petals](#) – mix with water or infuse into oil for pink to purple to red shades. You can manipulate the colour by playing with the pH, so take note of the pH of your product before adding this!

Powdered [pink cornflowers](#) – infuse in water or oil for a soft pink colour.

[Beetroot powder](#) – will give a pinky red shade.

Natural Red Shades

[Hibiscus powder](#) – mix with water or infuse into oil for pink to purple to red shades. You can manipulate the colour by playing with the pH, so take note of the pH of your product before adding this!

[Henna red](#) – produces a warm natural red tone.

[Iron oxide – Lavanya red](#) – produces an earthy red tone. We recommend you use a paper towel or other disposable cloth to clean up afterwards, as oxides may stain.

[Rhassoul clay](#) – produces a dark reddish brown tone.

[Beetroot powder](#) – will give a pinky red shade.

Natural White Shades

[Bentonite clay](#) – varies from white to a very light green.

[Kaolin clay](#) – varies from white to off white in tone.

[Titanium Dioxide](#) – a very bright white.

Natural Yellow Shades

[Iron oxide – Lavanya yellow](#) – though insoluble in water and oil mediums, the oxides will still yield a strong colour in the liquid. Particles will sink to the bottom and only very small amounts are needed to achieve a good colour. Use titanium dioxide to lighten. We recommend you use a paper towel or other disposable cloth to clean up afterwards, as oxides may stain.

[Turmeric](#) – a strong yellow colour is produced.

Lemon peel (finely grated) – a natural pale but bright yellow.

[Calendula petals](#) – can vary from a pinkish to a yellowish orange to pink-orange. Can be infused in oils or added as a powder to soaps.

Ground or powdered [chamomile flowers](#) – varies from a yellow to beige.

Saffron – a natural yellow.

A-Z

[Bentonite Clay](#)

Bentonite Clay is one of the most therapeutic and healing of all of the clays. It helps soothe many skin ailments including bruises, insect bites, bee stings, burns, cuts, rashes, acne and boils. It also helps bind toxins making them more soluble so they can be washed away from the surface of your skin. When used as a natural colourant the results vary from white to a very light green.

[Cinnamon Powder](#)

Derived from the bark of the cinnamon tree, this valuable spice gives a fragrant, sweet, warm taste to savoury and sweet dishes. When used as a natural colourant in DIY cosmetics, the shade it produces varies from a dark tan to brown. Warning: can be an irritant to sensitive skin.

[Cacao Powder](#)

When used as a natural colourant in DIY cosmetics, pure cacao powder usually produces a deep natural brown shade.

[Green kaolin clay](#) and [African Green Clay](#)

Green Kaolin Clay and African Green Clay are made of kaolin and bentonite clays, respectively. They are so absorbent they are able to draw out toxins and impurities from the skin. Fabulous clays to use in your DIY face masks.

[Henna black](#)

Henna is the ultimate natural hair colourant and this product produces a black shine with a slight reddish tinge. Can also be used as a natural colourant in many DIY cosmetics.

[Henna red](#)

Henna is the ultimate natural hair colourant and this product produces a warm natural red tone, but those with dark brown hair will experience a more subtle colour. Can also be used as a natural colourant in many DIY cosmetics.

Iron Oxides

Iron oxide – Lavanya natural colours, are known as Natural Pigments and produce "earthy" tones, not bright, true colours. Approved for use in all types of cosmetics, they can be used to colour bath bombs, bath salts, lotions, shower gels, shampoos, soaps and many more DIY projects. The three different iron oxides black, yellow and red can be mixed and blended to create a wide range of natural looking skin & colour tones.

Kaolin clay

Kaolin clay is an inorganic mineral that can be used in a number of DIY cosmetic recipes. It is famous for its oil absorbing properties, so it is ideal for oily and acne prone skin, and it helps reduce shine and hide imperfections. Kaolin clay is probably the most widely used clay in natural cosmetics because it is so mild it can be used even on very sensitive skin. Use it in soaps, scrubs, deodorants and face masks. Used as a natural colourant, it produces a soft natural white shade.

Kelp Powder

Kelp powder is loaded with mineral and vitamin benefits and can be added to facial masks, bath teas, bath salts, exfoliating scrubs and much more. When used as a natural colourant in DIY cosmetics it produces dark green shades.

Pink Kaolin clay

Pink Kaolin clay is the ideal ingredient for sensitive skin types and is one of the best clays you can use in DIY face care recipes. It is mild and calming and helps to soothe irritated skin. When used as a colourant it produces a pretty, natural pink shade.

Rhassoul Clay

Rhassoul clay is a 100% natural mineral clay that moisturises and softens skin and hair. It can be used daily as a soap and/or shampoo and as a base ingredient in the making of face masks. Used as a natural colourant, it produces a reddish/brown shade.

Turmeric

Turmeric is a popular spice, obtained from the dried and ground root of the turmeric plant. It has a deep orange-yellow colour. It is packed with health benefits, and has long been used as a potent anti-inflammatory and healing remedy.

Zinc Oxide

Zinc oxide can be used in ointments, creams, and lotions to protect against sunburn and other damage to the skin caused by ultraviolet light. Also used as a natural white pigment to colour your DIY cosmetics.

