



# Jeanie FAQs and Troubleshooting

## FAQs

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### Is Jeanie only for jeans? Can I use it for other types of clothing/fabric?

Jeanie is formulated specifically for denim, but it will dye any natural fabric, including cottons, silks, linens, hemp and more. It cannot be used on synthetic fabrics.

### Do I need to add salt?

Salt is not absolutely necessary, but highly recommended for maximum color intensity. It will drive more dye into the fiber and allow you to achieve brighter and deeper colors.

### How many pairs of jeans can I dye with one Jeanie packet?

Up to 3 pairs for deep shades. Much more can be dyed, but the depth of shade will begin to decrease.

### I'm worried about shrinkage. Do I have to use hot water? Why?

Yes, Jeanie is a hot water dye, so hot water is necessary. The hotter the dye bath gets, the more intense the color will become. Using cold or warm water will not produce deep or bright colors. If your fabric cannot withstand high temperatures, consider using a cold water dye like Procion MX.

### For darker colors should I get 2 packets?

It depends on how much fabric you are dyeing and how much water you are using. Darker colors are achieved by using more heat, using less water or using more dye.

### Can I save the dye bath and reuse it later?

Yes, but it is not recommended. It is unlikely that the second dyeing will produce the same color as the first, especially when using a Jeanie color that is composed of multiple dyes. This is because each color in the blend strikes at a different rate, which means the ratio of colors left over in the dye bath will change after the first dyeing. If consistent color isn't a concern, just remember that you may have to reheat the dye to get the dye back into solution. Also, subsequent dyeings will probably produce paler shades.

### Is it dangerous?

If used according to the instructions, Jeanie is safe. Because the dye comes in a soluble packet, there is little risk of inhaling the dye powder or coming into contact with it in an unsafe way.

### What kind of pots can I use?

Do not use a pot you intend to cook with in the future. Stainless steel or enameled pots work best. Aluminum pots are not recommended, but will work in a pinch.

### Will a Teflon pot work?

Yes.

### What is the dissolvable packet made of?

PVA (polyvinyl alcohol), which is non-toxic and biodegradable.

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## Is the dye bath safe for septic tanks?

Yes, the dye bath is septic and sewer safe and may be poured down the drain or disposed of according to local regulations.

## Can the colors be mixed together?

Yes. To mix colors, you can use multiple packets of Jeanie, or dissolve each color in jars and mix the liquid solutions.

## What if I want a lighter shade?

Use less dye! Dissolve the dye in a jar and use just what you need. The rest you can save and use next time. You can also cut open the dye packet and pour out just a pinch of powder. Dyeing at lower temperatures is another way to achieve paler colors.

## After it is mixed in the water, how long will it last?

Indefinitely. However, over time, the dye may fall out of solution. To re-dissolve the dye will require heat.

## How can I paint on my jeans using Jeanie?

Painting with Jeanie is possible, but not recommended. Consider using Jacquard's fabric paints or a cold water dye for this application.

## If left unopened, and stored properly, how long will it last?

Indefinitely.

## The color is bleeding. What did I do wrong?

Maybe nothing. Some colors, like red, tend to bleed. To stop this, use the iDye Fixative. The fixative works great to increase the washfastness of any color.

## My black came out purple. What happened?

The dye bath was not hot enough. When using black, it is important to achieve at least 180°F/82°C. Sometimes, it may require a longer dye time, as well. Using salt is also highly recommended when dyeing black.

## Why did the fabric not turn out the same as the picture on the packet?

The picture is only an approximation. All fibers will yield slightly different colors. Sometime different fibers can yield dramatically different colors, too! Results will also vary depending on the original color of the jeans.

## I dissolved the dye in water, and it doesn't look like the right color. Why is that?

The color of a dye bath (the color of dye in solution) will always be slightly different than the color it produces on fabric.

## I have just finished using stainless steel pots to stovetop dye some fabric. If they are washed thoroughly, can I use them to cook with again?

No, no pot or utensil used for dyeing should be used for food.

## What do you suggest for ensuring that Jeanie colors do not leach into washing machine interior plastic hulls?

Either pre-dissolve the packets before adding the dye to the washing machine, or run several washes after the dye job, using hot water and bleach.

## Will Jeanie work in a front loading washing machine?

Yes, you can watch a video on how to do it here: <https://vimeo.com/jacquardproducts/idye>

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## **I dyed my denim using Jeanie but all the stitching threads remained white.**

### **What happened?**

The threads used to stitch commercial garments are often made of polyester, which will remain untouched by Jeanie. To color the threads at the same time as the garment, mix the same colors Jeanie and iDye Poly in the dye bath and use the stovetop method.

## **What is the difference between Jeanie and iDye?**

Jeanie is a versatile hot water dye like iDye, but the palette has been selected and marketed specifically for denim. It can be used for other applications, like iDye, but works especially well on jeans.