

## How to Prepare Natural Indigo

### \*Procedure for 'lye preparation' of indigo



The plant on the photo is an indigo plant. There are various kinds of indigo plants in the world, such as the polygonum and the legume. We use polygonum indigo in our studio.

It takes almost one hundred days to prepare the dye material, called 'sukumo', which is made by composting dried polygonum leaves.



It is necessary to dissolve the sukumo in a strong alkali water, called lye, which is prepared by dissolving hard wood ashes in warm water.

First, the sukumo is mixed with lime and lye and kneaded well.



When the prepared sukumo has fermented a foam called 'Ai no Hana' (indigo flower) appears on the surface. When it has stabilized, it can be used for dyeing.

National Awa Indigo Dyeing and Weaving Artist Society



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Location: Close to the car park of the Former Nozaki Residence,  
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English

藍色の島  
日本

Island of Indigo Blue



## RAMPU-YA HON AIZOME KOBO 'AI-NOZOKI'

values the old, labor-intensive techniques of slow dyeing using natural indigo, a production process which is becoming less and less common. We use the 'lye preparation' method, in which 'sukumo' - prepared by composting dried natural polygonum - is fermented after mixing it with lye, sake, and lime.



### Indigo Dyeing Workshop



We welcome guests who want to experience indigo dyeing at our studio. Individuals or groups are welcome any time, though reservations are required. At least approximately one hour is necessary for this experience. You can bring your own material for dyeing if you like.  
Charges: ¥1200 for a bandanna  
¥5000 for a T-shirt.  
(includes dyeing fee and material)  
If you bring your own material the dyeing fee is ¥15 per gram (flat fee of ¥1000 if less than 70g)  
Please feel free to make inquiries about this experience. Check out our webpage. It includes a page of comments by guests who have experienced indigo dyeing.

RAMPU-YA web site:  
<http://www.aizomejapan.com/>