

Leaves that Last: Leaf Printing

Capture the beauty of leaves forever! Decorate a cloth tote bag, t-shirt or pillowcase with a unique leaf design.

Materials Needed:

- Pre-collected fresh leaves*
- Cloth item to print
- Textile Paints
- Foam brushes
- Paper towels (or pieces of paper)
- Newspaper
- Iron
- Towel



*Never collect leaves from private property or parks. Be sure to investigate collections procedures at sites before obtaining leaves.

Note: The leaves used for this craft should have prominent venation on the back side of the leaf. This will be the side that you will print with.

Directions:

1. Preparation: place a thin layer of newspaper between front and back of item to be printed.
2. Work on a protected work surface (area covered with newspaper is recommended).
3. Using foam brush, apply an even layer of paint to the back side of the leaf.
4. Do a test to determine if you are using the appropriate amount of paint (this test can be printed on paper). Due to the natural oils that can be on the leaf, this is a good way to make sure that the paint will adhere to the leaf for your printing.
5. Once you have completed a test you are ready to print.
6. Apply layer of paint to back side of leaf.
7. Carefully pick up the leaf and place it paint side down on your fabric.
8. Cover the leaf with scrap paper or paper towel and rub over the entire area of the leaf.
9. Remove the paper/paper towel and carefully peel the leaf from the fabric.
10. Depending on the quality of the leaf, you may be able to use the same leaf multiple times. You can either keep using the same color paint or carefully wipe/dab the leaf with a paper towel before using another paint color.
11. When design is complete, let the paint dry thoroughly (24 hrs. recommended).
12. Option: design the other side of your fabric.
13. Set image with iron at medium heat, placing a towel between the image and the iron. Once it is set, you can wash and use.



<< Canvas tote bag.



T-shirt >>