



## ***Care and Handling of our Luxury Yarn Bases***

### **Soaking**

Not every project requires a complete immersion or soak. The amount of blocking out or 'settling' of stitches is dependent on whether a damp block (using wet cloths and/or cool iron) or soak block is necessary.

We work very hard to get all dye exhausted on 'sticky' and/or dark colorways. However, I have a few tips that apply to working with any hand dyes...and I use them all the time on multi-color projects...

If you are able to, and there is a solid color in the project, dip that first to check for bleeding. You probably won't see any, however...as much as I love all the wool washes out there, they can pull any excess dye out.

Add a 1/4 c. of vinegar to the wash. Use tepid or cool water.

Constant gentle agitation - this is probably the most critical factor. A project will absorb enough water in a few minutes time to make it suitable for blocking. It doesn't need to sit in water for an hour...5 minutes of soak/swish is enough. I have had commercially dyed yarns bleed when lying in the water and overlapping on top of itself. Gentle swishing is the name of the game here.

I err on the side of caution when soaking, so unless it is a one color project that you can throw in the sink and walk away from, consider baby-sitting until it comes out.

### **Removing excess water**

While squeezing water out by rolling in towels is considered standard practice, it still allows for too much water to remain in the garment. This can lead to more stretching in the blocking process. A sleeve slips out of your grasp and voila! it becomes 3" longer than necessary.

There is no reason in the world that the washing machine spinning cycle can't be used on any yarn base. Feel free to use a lingerie bag if it makes you feel better.

### **Blocking**

Since the majority of our yarns are superwash, I always block to slightly under the dimensions I am looking for. I locate my blocking boards in an area where I can walk by several times a day and give love...readjust pins and pat out to the desired sizing.

Questions/Concerns? Please contact us at [Kristi@shalimaryarns.com](mailto:Kristi@shalimaryarns.com)

Happy Knitting!