How to Age Chicken Wire

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This blog will show you how to age chicken wire with the oxidising method.

OVERVIEW

- **Experience Required:** Easy
- **Tools Required:** Wire Cutters, Protective Gloves, Plastic Container, White Vinegar, Hydrogen Peroxide, Table Salt
- **Materials Required:** Chicken Wire

STEP 1) Prepare Your Supplies



- Gather all the supplies you need for the project

STEP 2) Cut to Size



- Cut the required amount of chicken wire for your project.
- Get a large enough container ready for the mesh.

STEP 3) Pour the Hydrogen Peroxide



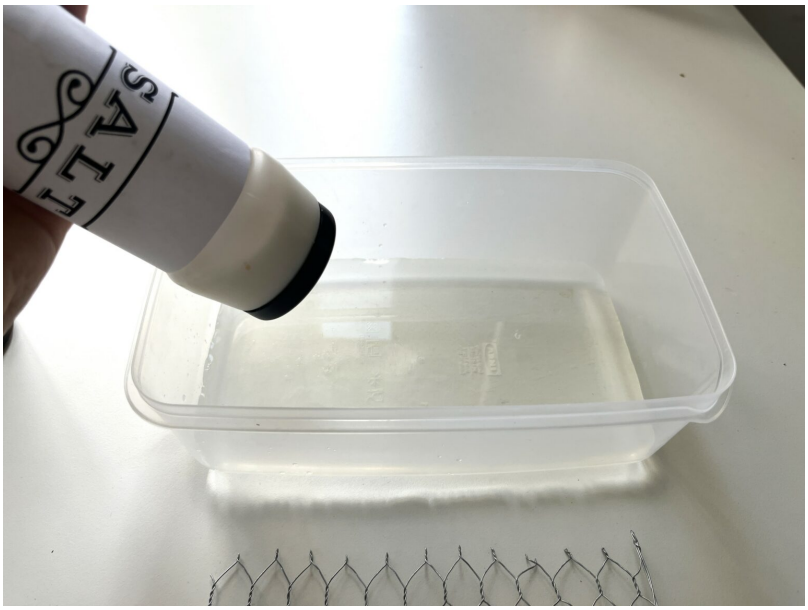
- Take your plastic container outside, or to a well-ventilated area.
- Pour 8 parts hydrogen peroxide into the container.

STEP 4) Add the Vinegar



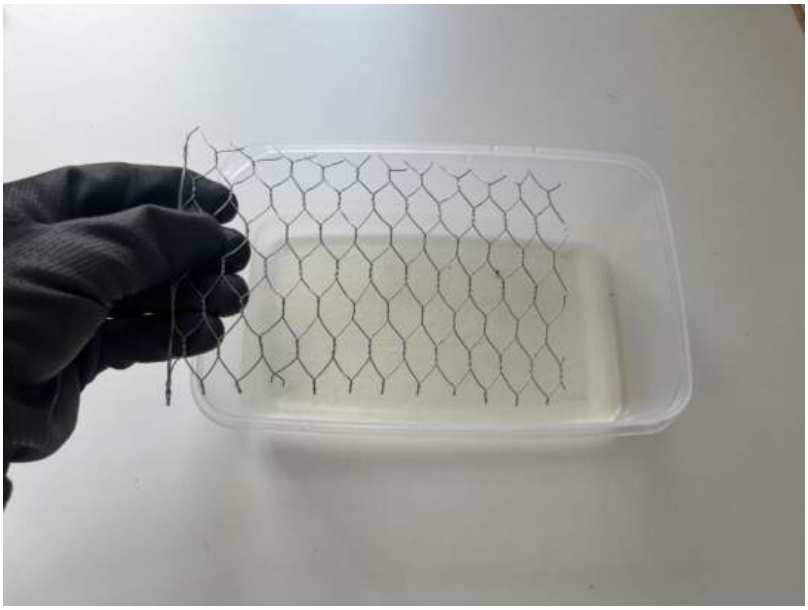
- Add 1 part vinegar to the hydrogen peroxide.

STEP 5) Add the Salt



- Add 1-2 tablespoons of table salt.
- Stir everything together using a wooden or plastic spoon.
- Remember to wear protective gloves while handling the mixture.

STEP 6) Submerge in Chemical Mixture



- Take your piece of mesh and place it into the container.
- Make sure it's fully submerged for an even finish.

STEP 7) Leave to Oxidise



- Let the mesh oxidise for at least 30 minutes (but it can be longer).
- The liquid will change colour and bubbles will form on the surface of the mesh.
- Make sure to have good ventilation or do this process outside to avoid fumes causing irritation.

STEP 8) Let Dry



- After the chicken wire has been sufficiently oxidised, remove it from the container and lay it on clean paper towels to dry.
- It is important to wear protective gloves when handling chemicals.

STEP 9) Finished Project



- After allowing the chicken wire to dry, you can utilise it for your various projects.

Tips and tricks

- Always wear protective gloves and goggles when handling chemicals. Work in a well-ventilated area or outdoors to avoid inhaling fumes.
- Stick to the recommended ratio of 8 parts hydrogen peroxide to 1 part vinegar for the best oxidising effect.
- For larger pieces of mesh that can't be fully submerged, consider adding the oxidising mixture to a spray bottle and spraying it evenly.
- For a more pronounced aged look, leave the chicken wire in the solution for a longer period, but avoid over-oxidation, which can weaken the mesh.
- Dispose of the oxidising solution responsibly by neutralising it with baking soda and following local regulations for hazardous waste disposal.
- After achieving the desired rusty look, consider treating the finished piece with a clear sealant or rust preservative to maintain the aged appearance and prevent further rusting.

Alternative Ageing Methods

Saltwater Method

The saltwater method involves soaking the wire in a saltwater solution and leaving it outdoors for a few days, periodically spraying it to enhance rusting. This natural approach can achieve a convincingly aged look.

Bleach and Vinegar

Combining bleach and vinegar in equal parts can also age wire effectively. Submerge or spray the mesh and let it sit for several hours, taking care to handle the mixture safely.

Chalkboard Paint

For a unique method, use chalkboard paint to give the wire an aged, matte finish. Blogger Amy has a detailed guide on how to use this method effectively.

Further Reading

- How to Cut Chicken Wire: For more detailed instructions for cutting chicken wire of different thicknesses, consult this article.
- How to Paint Chicken Wire: Ageing isn't the only way to achieve a fresh look – learn how to paint your mesh with spray paint, using this guide.