3.0 Reactive Dyes: Video Transcript

Reactive dyes are different to all the other dye classes as they attach themselves onto the fibre by covalent bonds. Covalent bonds are formed by a chemical reaction between the dye molecule and the fibre. The bonds are very strong and difficult to break. This gives reactive dyes very good wet fastness properties.

Reactive dyes can be applied at temperatures between 40-100 °C depending on the type of reactive group on the dye. They are used mainly to dye cotton but can also be used to dye wool.

The main advantages of reactive dyes are:

- They are relatively simple to apply
- There is a wide range of bright shades available
- They have good light fastness
- They have very good wash fastness

The disadvantage of reactive dyes is:

- They are more expensive than other dye classes