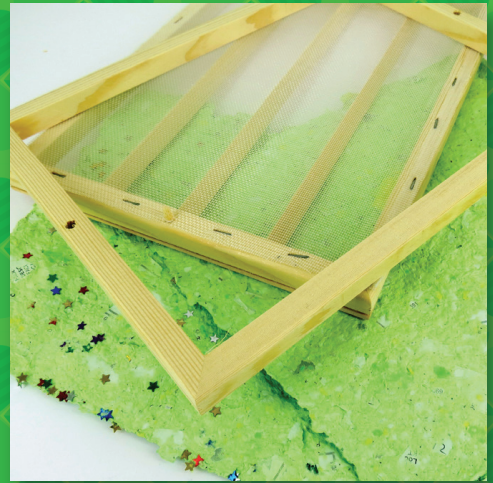


How to make your own paper



Preparation

Where can you make paper?

Paper making is a wet process (but a clean one). We suggest you do your paper making on a flat surface such as a bench or desk. Or weather permitting, why not try outside?

What raw materials will you need?

There is one simple rule... what you put in, you get out. If you want white paper, select white paper such as envelopes, writing paper etc. If you want coloured paper, select coloured paper such as tissue paper, serviettes, crepe paper etc.

What supplies will you need?

- A sink or large storage tub
- A flat board (i.e. chopping board) placed next to the sink covered with a wet cloth (i.e. Chux)
- Clothes airer for drying
- Bucket
- Water
- Waste paper



A4 Deckle



Envelope Deckle



Mould

How to make paper

Prepare the paper mix

1. Take 1 or 2 sheets of newspaper and tear into long strips of 2.5cm, and then into squares.
2. Fill the bucket half way with warm water.
3. Stir the pieces of newspaper in.
4. If you find the pulp rather thin, add more paper (Note: some paper requires more beating than others).
5. Pour the pulp into the sink and add another bucket of water and stir (Note: the thicker the pulp, the thicker your paper sheets).



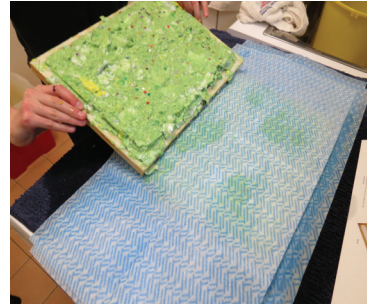
Pulling the paper

1. Place the deckle on the mould, pins fitting in the holes. Keep them tight and submerge almost vertically into the pulp.
2. Move the mould and deckle slowly and horizontally.
3. Bring the mould and deckle up to the water level – give a few little shakes (to and from, left to right – not up and down) so the fibres will interlace.
4. Lift the deckle out of the water, giving a few more light shakes – this is called “pulling” the paper. A sheet of paper has now formed on the mould.
5. Let the excess water drip out.



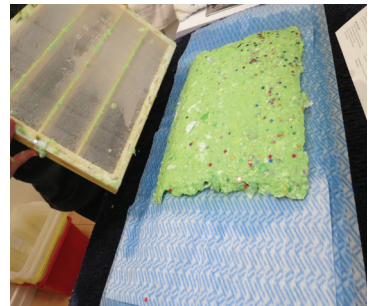
Couching

1. Take the deckle off. When you hold the mould up, you will see that the sheet of paper adheres to the mould.
2. Take the mould over to your flat board.
3. Place the long edge on the cloth.
4. Turn the mould slowly face down onto the cloth.
5. Put another wet cloth on top of this sheet of paper.
6. Continue to make more sheets and paper and repeat as often as you like – finishing with a wet cloth on the top. The stack of paper you now have is called a “post”.
7. Place another flat board on top of the last cloth.
8. Place heavy books (i.e. telephone books or encyclopedias) on top of the board to put pressure on the “post”.
9. Leave for at least 10 minutes.



Removing the sheets

1. Remove the top board and the top cloth.
2. Loosen a sheet.
3. Carefully roll it off the cloth underneath.
4. Hang the sheet over a clothes airer to dry. (Note: the dryer a sheet of paper is, the easier it will come off).
5. When the sheets are nearly dry, stack them together and put them between the boards again for final pressing.
6. After a while (from 1 hour to leaving them overnight) take the sheets of paper out and peg them in batches of 4-6 sheets. (If they are stuck together do not worry, as they come apart when dry).



Congratulations! You have now made your own original paper...

Helpful decorating tips

Colouring your paper

Try a sheet of coloured tissue paper, a serviette or crepe paper.

Changing of texture

Use different types of cloths between your paper to create various textures. For example, use hessian or netting for a gridded texture. Or rub the sheet with a polished stone when dry to create a highly polished paper.

Embedding

Add materials such as craft leaves, lavender, rose petals to create patterns and texture in your paper. The object needs to be placed on the sheet when it has just been pulled. It is lightly pressed into the pulp and a little pulp is poured over it, then couch the sheet as usual or let it dry on the mould.

Making cards

Stitch copper wire across the mould, but do not flatten it – this will divide your into smaller sections. Use a thicker pulp and when dry, the sheet is easily torn along the thinner part left by the wire. For gift cards just divide your mould into squares with wire.