

The SECRETS of PAPER-MAKERY

When you've finished with an old piece of paper,
rip it up and turn it back into a brand new sheet!

It's easy peasy: shred, pulp, squeezey.

STUFF you'll NEED:

An adult to help

Any bits of scrap paper

Potato masher or food blender

A big bowl of water

An old pair of tights

A wire coat hanger

A stapler and staples

A pair of scissors

Washing-up bowl

A spoon

2 dry tea towels

Rolling pin

OPTIONAL:

Dried herbs

flowers

Leaves

Paint

Coloured paper



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TOP SECRET RECIPE

Pulping

1. Rip your scrap paper into lots of little pieces and soak them in a bowl of warm water for a few hours until they're nice and soggy.
2. Mash up the paper with a potato masher. Or, get an adult to help you whizz it up with a food blender, a handful at a time, until – hey, presto! – it looks like a thick, gooey soup.

Framing

1. Now you need to make a special frame. And what better use for an old wire coat hanger? Ask an adult to help you bend the wire into any shape you like. A good old-fashioned square, a star, a heart?
2. Keep hold of your adult. They'll need to help you cover your frame with an old pair of nylon tights. Yes! Tights! Stretch a section of the tights over the frame and staple tightly in place to make a screen. Nifty.

Mixing

1. Pour the paper pulp into a washing-up bowl and fill half way with warm water.
2. Go wild and chuck in some bits and bobs to customise your paper: non-toxic paint, little pieces of coloured paper, dried herbs, leaves, flowers or petals. Mix and match whatever takes your fancy!
3. Stir the contents of the bowl well until the ingredients are even.

Fiddling

1. Slide the frame into the water, then slowly lift it up, moving it from side to side, so the pulp settles evenly on top of the screen. Steady does it.
2. Lift the frame out of the water, keeping it flat. Let it drip for a bit, then press the pulp gently with your hand to squeeze out any extra water.

Rolling

1. Lay some tea towels on the kitchen surface. Quickly but carefully flip the screen over so the paper is face down on the cloth. Gently lift off the screen.
2. Place another dry tea towel on top of the paper and then use a rolling pin to squeeze out any more water. Leave the cloth on top when you've finished.

Drying

1. The paper needs to dry out and set, so let it have a well-earned rest. And you can have one, too!

FINISHING

1. When the paper is dry, stretch the tea towel to pull it away from the paper.
2. Lift off the towel et voilà! Your very own proper paper. Pretty impressive, huh?!

Graduating

Well done, you are now a master of paper-making. You thoroughly deserve to award yourself a whopping-great home-made badge or certificate!

So, what will you do with your recycled paper?

How about making a little book or another paper plane?

Let your imagination take flight!

Remember, always get a grown-up to help you.

