

# The Crafty Corner

*Fun activities for kids !*



Prep Time: 3hrs. | Craft time:  
30 min | Drying time: 3-5 hrs.

## What you will need:

- Recycled paper
- Blender
- Mould
- Plastic tub

*Additives, suggestions  
include:*

- Food colouring
- Essential oils
- pieces of coloured paper
- Pieces of thread
- Glitter
- Seeds
- Dried leaves, grass, or flower petals
- Small amounts of spices like cinnamon

## Make your own paper !

For over one hundred years, Powell River has been known as a paper town. In 1911 the first batch of paper was produced by the mill, and by 1947, 1 in 40 rolls of paper newsprint in the world came from PR Co. By the mid 1960's the Powell River Mill was the largest producer of wood fibre pulp and paper newsprint in the world.

Paper is made by first breaking down raw wood from trees into small pieces. Chemicals and heat are then applied to the wood pieces in order to create pulp. The pulp consists of cellulose fibres which have been separated from the wood. To shape the paper, pulp is mixed with water and pumped on to a conveyor belt, which carries it through a series of presses and dryers.

In this activity, we will make our own paper using recycled materials. The paper scraps we'll use are from paper which has already been chemically treated, so that step has already been done for us. Instead of chemicals and heat, we can use water and a blender to soften the paper and break it down to a pulp. By shaping and pressing the pulp with a screen, we can make a brand-new sheet of paper!



## Instructions:

1. Tear paper into strips, 1-2 inches wide
  2. Soak paper in water for at least 3 hours or overnight
  3. Fill blender halfway with soaked paper, then add about a cup of water into the blender. Blend the mixture on a low setting to preserve the integrity of pulp fibres. The mixture should become a slurry- if necessary add more water.
  4. Optional: you can customize your paper at this stage by blending food colouring, seeds, or scents with the pulp. Dried plant fibres such as leaves, flowers, or grasses should be gently hand mixed into the pulp.
  5. Fill a large container with water until it is 1/2 to 2/3 full.
  6. Pour the pulp slurry from the blender into the container of water. Let the pulp disperse for a few minutes, or speed up the process by lightly mixing it.
  7. Holding a paper mould with two hands, gently submerge it into the pulp/water and then bring it back up. The screen on the mould should be covered by a thin, even layer of pulp at this point. If the layer is too thick, add more water to the container, and if its too thin, blend more paper and add it to the container.
  8. Hold the mould level for several minutes to allow excess water to drain, or place on a level surface with a towel underneath.
  9. If paper remains very wet after a few minutes, lay a piece of paper towel, felt, or thin cloth on top, and then gently press with a sponge to absorb some of the water.
  10. Once the paper on the mould begins to appear solid, flip the mould face down on a cloth, and tap the mould on the table a few times to encourage the paper to separate. Gently pull the paper from the mould, and let dry on a flat, non-porous surface for best results.
- \*\*Drying time outside: 3-5 hours  
Drying time inside: overnight