

# Make Paper at Home!

## Materials and Preparation

- ✓ Scrap paper torn into 1" by 1" pieces
- ✓ A disposable wooden picture frame
- ✓ Wire mesh screen
- ✓ Stapler
- ✓ A 2.5 gallon tub that is larger than the picture frame
- ✓ Masking tape
- ✓ Dish towels
- ✓ Blender
- ✓ Sponge
- ✓ Rolling pin
- ✓ Strainer
- ✓ Towels for cleaning up water

Procedure- the papermaking process is a wet one, so plan to use a workspace that won't be harmed by moisture.

1. Soak the scrap paper in warm water for 30 minutes to overnight.
2. Make a deckle frame: Remove back and glass from picture frame. Tightly staple a wire screen to the frame. Use masking tape to cover any rough edges on the screen.
3. Fill the blender half way with warm water then add a handful of the soaked paper. Blend at medium speed until paper turns into slurry. You can blend in construction paper for color, dried flowers or herbs, or pieces of short thread.
4. Pour the blended mixture into the large tub and fill with warm water. Mix thoroughly until the ingredients are evenly dispersed.
5. Slide your frame into the tub, allowing some pulp to settle onto the screen and, still holding the frame underwater, gently move it back and forth to get an even layer of fibers on the screen.
6. Lift the frame out of the mixture keeping it flat. Press the pulp gently with your hand to squeeze out excess moisture. Soak up excess water from the bottom of the screen with a sponge.
7. Place clean dishtowels on a flat surface and flip the screen paper-side-down on the cloth. Lift the screen gently, leaving behind the paper.
8. Cover the paper with another cloth or piece of felt and squeeze out moisture using a rolling pin. Place the sheets out of the way to dry. When the paper is dry pull the cloth gently from both ends, stretching it to loosen the paper from the cloth. Gently peel off the paper.
9. When you are finished making paper, collect the leftover pulp in a strainer and throw it out, or freeze it in a plastic bag for future use. **Don't pour the pulp down the drain!**