



Papermaking At Home

WHAT TO DO:

1. Make a paper mould by stapling, tacking or glueing a screen onto a wooden frame. Use the other wooden frame without a screen as a deckle to keep the edges of your paper even.
2. Take some scrap paper, remove any plastic or staples and tear it into small pieces (about 2 cm square).
3. Take a handful of paper and put it into a blender half-filled with warm water. Blend at a moderate speed until you no longer see pieces of paper. (If it doesn't mix, take out some of the paper.) Add bits of vegetable matter to this mixture or pulp, and blend again. If you want coloured paper, add some non-toxic fabric dye to the pulp, too.
4. Pour the mixture into a large plastic basin, half-full of warm water. The more pulp you have, the thicker your paper will be.
5. Place the deckle on the screened side of the mould. With both hands, dip it into the basin and scoop up some of the pulp. Hold it over the basin and gently shake to spread the screen evenly with fibres. When the water has drained through, set the mould down and carefully lift off the deckle, leaving the just-formed sheet on the screen.
6. To remove the paper from the screen, lay a clean kitchen cloth on a flat table, then lay the screen face down on the cloth. Soak up any excess water from the back of the screen with a sponge. Gently lift the screen – the paper should remain on the cloth.
7. To dry the paper quickly, cover it with another cloth and iron it on medium-heat. When dry, pull gently on either side of the cloth to stretch it. This helps loosen the paper from the cloth. Gently peel the paper off.
8. When you're done, collect the leftover pulp in a strainer. DO NOT pour it down the sink – it might block the drain. You can either compost the strained pulp or put it in a plastic bag in the freezer for your next papermaking session.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- scrap paper
- plant and vegetable scraps (orange peel, carrot tops, dead flowers, etc.)
- staples, tacks or waterproof glue
- 2 wooden frames (about 20 cm X 15 cm)
- nylon fly screening
- 2 kitchen cloths
- plastic wash basin
- blender
- sponge
- iron

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