

# HOME MADE PAPER RECIPE

## **EQUIPMENT:**

Iron, Sponge, Fly Screening, Scrap Paper, Wood, Tub, Staple Gun or Finishing Nails, Vegetable Scraps, Kitchen Cloths, Food Colouring (optional, Blender. )

## **1) PAPER PREPARATION:**

Remove all staples, paper clips and plastic from waste paper. Shred the paper into small pieces (about 2cm square). Immerse the shredded paper in hot water (1 part paper to 2 parts water) for 30 minutes.

## **2) BUILDING THE MOLDS:**

While the paper is soaking, use the time to build the wooden frames. Build two frames measuring 20cm by 15cm and about 2.5cm thick. Then stretch dacron fly screening (found on tents) over the frames. Tack the screen in place with a staple gun (make sure the screen is taut). The second frame will not have a screening - it is called a "Deckle". The deckle makes sure that your paper will have smooth and straight edges.

## **3) MAKING THE PULP:**

Take a handful of soaked paper and put it in the blender. Fill the blender to halfway with warm water and blend until you no longer see pieces of paper. If you have blending problems take out some of the paper. Add vegetable matter such as orange peels, apple peels, carrot tops or flowers to the mix in the blender and blend again. The pulp will be ready when all the paper is indistinguishable as paper. By adding non-toxic food dyes to your pulp, you can produce coloured paper.

## **4) THE VAT & PAPER VISCOSITY:**

Place pulp in a tub that is larger than the frames and fill it half full with warm water. (Increasing and decreasing the amount of pulp will affect the thickness of the paper.)

## **5) USING THE MOULD:**

Place the deckle on top of your screen using both hands to keep the mould steady. Dip the mould into the tub and scoop up some pulp. Gently shake the mould from side to side to achieve an even layer of pulp across your screen. Do not tip or tilt your screen, because this will make your paper uneven in thickness. When all the water has drained away from the mould remove the deckle, leaving just the formed sheet on the screen.

## **6) REMOVING THE SCREENS:**

Spread out a kitchen cloth and turn over the screen face down onto the cloth. With the sponge, soak up the excess water from the back of the

screen. Very gently lift the screen away from the paper. The paper should remain on the cloth.

**7) DRYING THE PAPER:**

To quickly dry the paper, place another cloth on top of the paper and then iron at medium temperature. When it is dry, pull gently on either side of the two cloths to stretch it - this loosens the paper from the cloth.

**8) CLEAN UP:**

To clean up, simply put the pulp into your compost or strain it from the water, and put it into a plastic bag and freeze it until next time. Do not put pulp down your drain because it will plug it up. If you do not have a composter you can throw out the excess pulp. (You could make note-sized paper as well as full-sized sheets to use up the pulp.)