

Making Homemade Paper

Here's how to make paper. And no, it doesn't use any special equipment, only things that most people already have in the house:

1. Gather paper or paper products. This can be anything from old drawings, shopping lists, cardboard, non-Styrofoam egg cartons, magazines, catalogues, newspapers, etc...



2. Rip the paper into small-ish pieces and stick as much as you can in the food processor.



3. Cover the paper with water, let sit for 5 minutes, then blend up the paper as much as possible.



4. Add more and more paper to the food processor, let the paper soak in the water to soften (and adding more water as necessary), and then blend the paper until you get a uniform mixture. It'll most likely be gray. You may add a bit of food coloring or tempera paint at this point if you'd like it to be a different color.



5. Lay a piece of parchment paper down on a flat surface, on top of a larger towel. Place a blob of the paper mixture onto the parchment paper.



6. Lay another piece of parchment paper on top of the blob, then roll out as thin as possible with a rolling pin, making sure that you are getting a solid, yet thin sheet of paper pulp.



7. Peel off the top parchment paper, then fill in any of the holes in the sheet with more paper pulp, then roll down to flatten.

8. Take a large cloth napkin or thin, non-terrycloth towel, and lay it flat on the paper pulp sheet. Using the rolling pin, roll the cloth on top of the paper pulp sheet, absorbing any excess moisture. Then carefully lift off the cloth.



9. Place the baking paper with the sheets of paper pulp on it in a place where it won't be disturbed.



10. Leave for about a day, letting the top dry thoroughly, then flipping it over so it can dry on the other side.



11. Here's the lovely sheet of paper... Just needs to be trimmed!



Here's the paper cut a little bit more to size.

