

How to Make Handmade Paper

Handmade paper is great for the environment because you are recycling old paper and making something functional. This paper is great for Christmas cards or Christmas gift tags. Once you get started on this craft and have all the equipment you will not be able to stop! Have fun.

Materials



Above: Paper making screen

- Plenty of scrap paper and/or newspaper
- Paper making screen (pictured on the left)
- Flowers (To decorate your paper, optional)
- Tea towel (Not your best one)
- Smoothie blender
- Ironing board and iron (optional)

Method

1. Rip pieces of scrap paper or newspaper and put them into a bowl. Three double pages of newspaper would make around about one piece of homemade paper.
2. Soak the ripped pieces of paper with water and leave to sit for an hour. This will make sure you don't damage your blender.
3. Put two handfuls of wet paper into the blender.
4. Fill the blender with water until it is 2/3 full.
5. Blend for 15 seconds until the pulp moves freely around.
6. Put the plug into the sink and empty the pulp into the sink. Repeat steps 4, 5 and 6 until all the ripped up paper has been blended into pulp.
7. Dip the mould into the sink and sift through the pulp until lumps of pulp get caught on the mould. Add flowers to the pulp that is sitting on the mould.
8. Lay the filled mould upside down on a tea towel. The mesh should be on top and visible.
9. Lift the mould slightly and gently pour a tiny bit of water over the top. This should hopefully unstick it from the mould and lie on the tea towel. Be very careful not to pour too much water or you'll have trouble drying your paper.
10. The paper should now be on the tea towel and the screen is not needed. If you wish you can add some more flowers onto the paper.
11. Wrap the towel on both sides of the paper so the paper should not be seen. Iron the tea towel (with the paper wedged like a sandwich in between) to dry your paper. If you don't have an iron move onto step 12.
12. Leave your paper in the sun to dry completely.
13. Your paper is now ready for your creativity!