

What You Need

- newspaper (4-5 sheets to tear up and some extra sheets for the pressing process)
- large bowl
- hot water
- cornstarch
- measuring spoons
- aluminum foil
- wooden spoon
- scissors
- sharp pencil
- decorations like tissue paper, confetti, or glitter

Science Scoop

Newspaper is made of **cellulose**

fibers, which come from plants. Paper is made of millions of these fibers tangled together in a thin layer. The fibers naturally **bond** to one another. **Water** breaks down this bond. When you covered the newspaper with water, the fibers in the paper **loosened** their hold on each other. Then you're able to **rearrange** the fibers into new paper. The cornstarch you added helped **bind** the cellulose fibers to each other again. When you left your recycled paper out to dry, the water **evaporated** from the pulp and the fibers **stuck** together again to form a piece of recycled paper.

Recycling Paper Breaking news! Newspaper turned into paper!

Start by cutting the newspaper into small pieces and

- put them in a bowl.
- 2 Pour in enough hot tap water to cover the paper and mix
 - it until all of the paper is wet.
- 3 Let the paper sit for a few hours. When it looks and feels like cooked oatmeal, you're ready to make paper. 4 Add a few tablespoons of cornstarch and a little more
- hot water. Mix it all up again. This is the pulp.
- 5 Make a strainer out of a piece of aluminum foil. Punch lots of small holes in it with a sharp pencil.
- 6 Put the aluminum foil on top of a pile
- **7** Cover the aluminum foil with a thin layer of pulp.
- Place another sheet of aluminum foil on top and press down to drain the extra water.
- 8 Lift the top sheet of foil and decorate the pulp with
- things like colored tissue paper, glitter, or confetti. **9** Fix any holes in the pulp and replace the top sheet of foil.
- **10 Place** books on top of the pulp to **press** it flat. Remove the books and the top layer of foil. Leave the pulp out overnight (or longer) to dry.
- II Once the pulp is dry, carefully **peel it** from the foil. You just created paper!

Sent in by Tiffany and Boalong of Lincoln, NE



Try making paper from other materials like cardboard or tissue paper. Write to ZOOM at pbskids.org/zoom and tell us how you made your recycled paper.



Changing newspaper into pulp takes several hours and the drying process can take a day or two.

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