

# How to make recycled paper



## You will need:

- 5 sheets of used paper
- A bucket
- A potato masher
- A wire coathanger
- A jug
- An old pair of tights
- A large flat saucepan lid or flat baking tray
- A rolling pin
- Some wire/ twist ties
- A pair of scissors

## Optional:

- Flower petals or grass for decorating

- 1 Take old used paper (nothing glossy from magazines) and tear into pieces approximately 2 cm big. Place in a bucket with a bit of warm water and leave overnight



- 2 Pour away a bit of the extra water and then mash the paper with the masher until it is a pulp and you can't see any of the writing that was on the paper (this took me about half an hour)

- 3 Making the coathanger screen
  - Take the wire coathanger and old pair of tights. Stretch open the coathanger to make a diamond shape
  - Put the coathanger inside the start of the pair of tights and tie a double-knot in the legs of the tights, and cut off the legs off
  - Stretch them nice and tight, by bunching up the waist section and secure with wire or a twist-tie



Then pre-dampen your new screen by running it under a tap and rubbing with your hands

- 4 Place your screen over something (like a jug) to catch the water, and gently pour your pulp mix onto it. Keeping it over the jug, spread out and mash the pulp with your fingers



- 5 Lay the screen on a flat saucepan lid or baking tray, and tipping it at an angle slightly so that the water can run off, firmly spread out and squish the pulp, so that it gets flat and you squeeze lots of the water out
- 6 If you would like to decorate your paper, gently press your petals or grass onto the surface of the wet paper



- 7 Rest your screen against a wall in a warm place, at an angle, to dry (if indoors then you may want to place some paper towels underneath it to catch any water that might drip off) This will take 1-2 days, depending on how warm it is.

- 8 Gently peel your paper off the screen once it is dry. If you have decorated your paper with petals or grass, skip this next step!

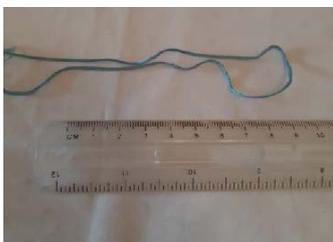
- 9 To make your paper less bumpy and easier to write on: lay it on a flat surface and roll over both sides with a rolling pin. You can then cut it into a square shape or keep it round and different. And hey presto! It's ready for your drawings! Psst! Don't forget that you can recycle any scraps that you cut off, or after you have drawn all over your paper go back to stage 1 and recycle it again... and again...and again...you can recycle that same piece of paper forever if you wanted!

**If you like, now carry on to the next section to see how to make your paper into beautiful bookmarks**

- 1 Cut your paper into bookmark shapes (rectangles or oblongs)



- 2 Measure out and cut a piece of cord to about 20 cm



- 3 Wrap another piece of cord 12 times around a small offcut of your paper



- 4 Slide your 20cm string (that you cut at stage 2) underneath the wrapped cord, making sure to hold onto it with your thumb, so it doesn't unravel

- 5 Pull both end of your 20 cm cord together and upwards (and make sure they are even)

- 6 Then tie a knot, tying the two ends together



- 7 Fold the piece of paper slightly, whilst holding onto the top of your bunch of cord, and gently slide out the paper (wiggling it a little)



- 8 Wrap another piece of cord around the top of the bunch, and tie it to secure it

- 9 Slide your scissors into the centre of the tassel and cut them all



- 10 Carefully (ask an adult for help) make a hole in the top of the bookmark, to attach your tassel



You can also cover them with a bit of sticky back plastic or Sellotape if you would like them to last longer (as some of the flowers may fall off over time)drip off) This will take 1-2 days, depending on how warm it is.