

Paper Recycling

Supplies:

Screen and 2 frames (will determine size of the paper),

packing tape

Large tub (that will accommodate the frames)

Bowl

Towel, cardboard, or cloth (for staging the paper)

Water

Scrap paper (free of staples, plastic, etc) - newspaper, envelopes, magazines,

Blender

Optional: seeds, pressed leaves or flowers, yarn, thread, molds, cookie cutters, iron

Directions:

Take the frames and cover one with screening. (The second frame will fit over the first one to help give you a clean edge.) I tape my screens using packing tape to help keep children from getting scratched.

Shred paper into small pieces (I like to use the shredder paper from my office), toss into a bowl of water and let soak.

Fill blender 2/3 full of water. Add a handful of wet, shredded paper and blend until smooth. (Add bits of yarn or thread if desired.) Add more water if the mixture is chunky. Pour pulp into a large tub filled about 2/3 full of water.

Take both frames, screened frame underneath the blank frame, dip into tub filled with pulp and water. "Sift" water to fill frame with pulp then lift out of tub (let it drip a bit before unmolding).

Remove top frame and flip screened pulp onto fabric or cardboard. Use a sponge to pull water away from the screened paper then lift the screened frame away. Press out any bubbles or water. Add pressed flowers or leaves. Let dry in a sunny spot. Thicker paper takes longer to dry than thinner paper. You can iron it if you want it to dry quicker.

You can also use cookie cutters or molds to make shapes. (Molded pulp takes a long time to dry)

There are many videos that can help you visualize the technique. Experiment and have fun! Use your paper for leaf or apple stamping!

