

Katy DeMent Papermaker



Handmade Recycled Papers

Basic Papermaking Instructions

A little bit about myself...I majored in Art History at Georgia State University and studied textiles at American College in Atlanta. For the past ten years I've been studying papermaking in depth. Being an obsessive packrat led to my work in collage and my love of nature led to my working with recycled papers. Yard sale treasures, found objects, and plant fibers are both the inspiration and the basis for my creations. These items are then woven into pieces that tell an interesting story.

I hope this will help you with your papermaking experience!

1. **Collect** the best recycled papers you can find and sort them by color.
2. **Tear** paper into tiny pieces or use an office shredder.
3. **Soak** paper in water, pour out old water and add fresh water plus 1 tablespoon of an anti-bacterial soap per each gallon of water.
4. Pulp by **pulverizing** with a blender (careful, this could damage your blender!), or blast with a hose when you add the fresh water, or you can use a "Wiz Mixer" (that's a giant commercial blender) or you could use a paint mixer.
5. Pour pulp into a large tub and add more water to make a **slurry**.
6. Dip a hoop or frame covered with mesh (called a **mould** and **deckle**) into the pulp.
7. Lift the frames out of the slurry whilst the water drips out.
8. **Couch** or flip the pulpy sheet over onto a felt cloth or newspapers.
9. **Press** the back of the mould with a sponge to remove water. Wring out the sponge and remove the mould.
10. **Stack** the sheets and newspapers, top with board and press (this is called a **post**).
11. Lay out these sheets until **dry**, then peel off the newspaper. You could **iron** these sheets to speed drying and to flatten the sheets more.

Please Recycle and Good Luck!