

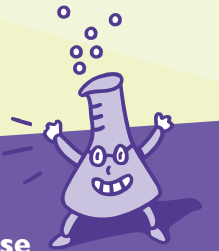


# Recycling Paper

Breaking news!  
Newspaper turned into paper!

## What You Need

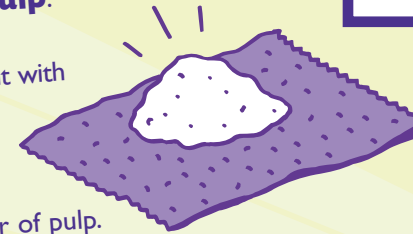
- newspaper (4–5 sheets to tear up and some extra sheets for the pressing process)
- large bowl
- hot water
- cornstarch
- measuring spoons
- aluminum foil
- wooden spoon
- scissors
- sharp pencil
- decorations like tissue paper, confetti, or glitter



## 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**.

- 1 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.
- 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**.
- 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 of newspaper.
- 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.
- Once the pulp is dry, carefully **peel it** from the foil. You just created paper!



Try making paper from other materials like cardboard or tissue paper. Write to ZOOM at [pbskids.org/zoom](http://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.

Sent in by Tiffany and Boalong of Lincoln, NE



The Weezie Foundation



PBS