



How about making some of your own

# Recycled Paper?

Get creative with your ingredients. It'll be even more fun if you try it with friends.

## What You'll Need:

A piece of screen, such as a window screen, or a papermaking screen and frame

Recycled paper—tissue paper, newsprint, printer paper, wrapping paper, envelopes—ripped into small pieces (about a half-inch square)

Recycled or natural decorative bits (optional)—ribbons, threads, fabric, postage stamps (be imaginative!), leaves, grass—snipped into small pieces

Plastic basin for water runoff

Electric blender

Rags (lots) and 1–2 old towels

Newspapers or old tablecloth

Butter knife

Pieces of cardboard cut to match the size of your screen



**Step 1:** This is a fun but messy job, so set up your workspace with newspapers or an old tablecloth. You might want to put some newspapers on the floor as well. And wear old clothes!



**Step 2:** Place the screen on top of the plastic basin. If the screen does not have a frame, tape it to the basin top.



**Step 3:** Fill your blender  $\frac{2}{3}$  full of warm water and fit into base. Sprinkle in 1–2 handfuls of torn paper. Let soak for at least 30 minutes.



**Step 4 (optional):** Arrange decorative bits on screen, facedown.

**Step 5:** Secure blender lid (very important!), and turn blender on low. Water may leak a bit, so have rags ready. Allow to spin for 30 seconds. Paper pulp should look like clouds and have the consistency of oatmeal. Immediately lift out the blender container and bring it to your screen. Pour quickly through your screen.



**Step 6:** Use precut cardboard rectangles to gently press excess water through the screen, then lift the cardboard off (you may need to use the butter knife to pry the pulp page from the cardboard). Make sure most of the water is pressed out, then flip the screen over onto an old towel or tablecloth. The paper page will detach from the screen. Leave to dry.



Voilà! You've made your first handmade page of paper from recycled materials! Now make another one! If you don't like uneven, bumpy edges, place another towel over your fresh pages and put a heavy book on top to weigh them down.



**Paste a sample of your handmade paper here:**

## Paper Pleasures

Making recycled paper uses fewer resources and creates less pollution than making new paper.

And we're using more recycled paper than ever. In 2007, 56 percent of the paper used in the United States was recycled. That equals more than 360 pounds of paper for every person in the country.

What did you enjoy most about making paper with your Girl Scout friends?

Keep a tally of all the things you're able to do with your handmade recycled paper.

I used my handmade recycled paper to:

**Now that's using resources wisely!**

