# Flax pulp paper

# FLAX PULP PAPER

This recipe explains how you can make paper from flax residues. Also moldable as a 3D shape

SUPPLIES
Flax residues (fiber-rich, such as stems)
Water
Soda (e.g., washing soda)
Blender or immersion blender
Large pot
Mould and deckle (wooden frame with mesh)
Cloths or felt
Press (or two boards and straps)
Clothesline or drying rack

DIRECTIONS
1. Cut the flax residues into pieces of about 1 to 3 cm.
2. Place the pieces in a pot with water and add 10 grams of soda per liter of water.
3. Boil the flax residues for 30 to 60 minutes until soft and falling apart.
4. Rinse the boiled fibers thoroughly with water until all soda is removed and the rinse water is clear.
5. Blend the fibers in a blender or with an immersion blender until you get a fine pulp. Add enough water to make a slurry without large pieces.
6. Fill a large tub with water and add the pulp.
7. Use the mould and deckle to scoop a layer of pulp from the water.
8. Transfer the wet sheet onto a cloth or felt.
9. Stack the sheets between cloths and press them with a press or between two boards with straps to remove most of the water.

Let the sheets dry on the cloth on a clothesline or drying rack.

COLORING
If you want to add color to flax pulp during the papermaking process, the best moment is after the fibers have been cooked, rinsed, and pulped—so when you have a wet, blended pulp, but before you start forming sheets. At this stage, you simply mix your chosen dye thoroughly into the pulp and let it stand until the desired color is achieved. This method ensures even color distribution throughout the paper.

For natural plant fibers like flax, you can also add the dye to the fibers after rinsing and cook them together for deeper, more lasting color. Alternatively, you can dye finished sheets by dipping or brushing them with dye, but this gives a different, often less even, effect.

TIPS
Longer fibers make stronger paper. You can leave out the blending process for a rougher surface, mix flax pulp with longer flax fibres or with recycled paper pulp for different textures or strength. If you want, add petals or any other material to show on top of the flax paper.

SHAPING
This recipe also works as a 3D shape although it may take longer to dry as these shapes are often more difficult to press.

NO FLAX?
You can follow thos process with other plant materials as well, such as grasses, flower leaves and stems etc.



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