

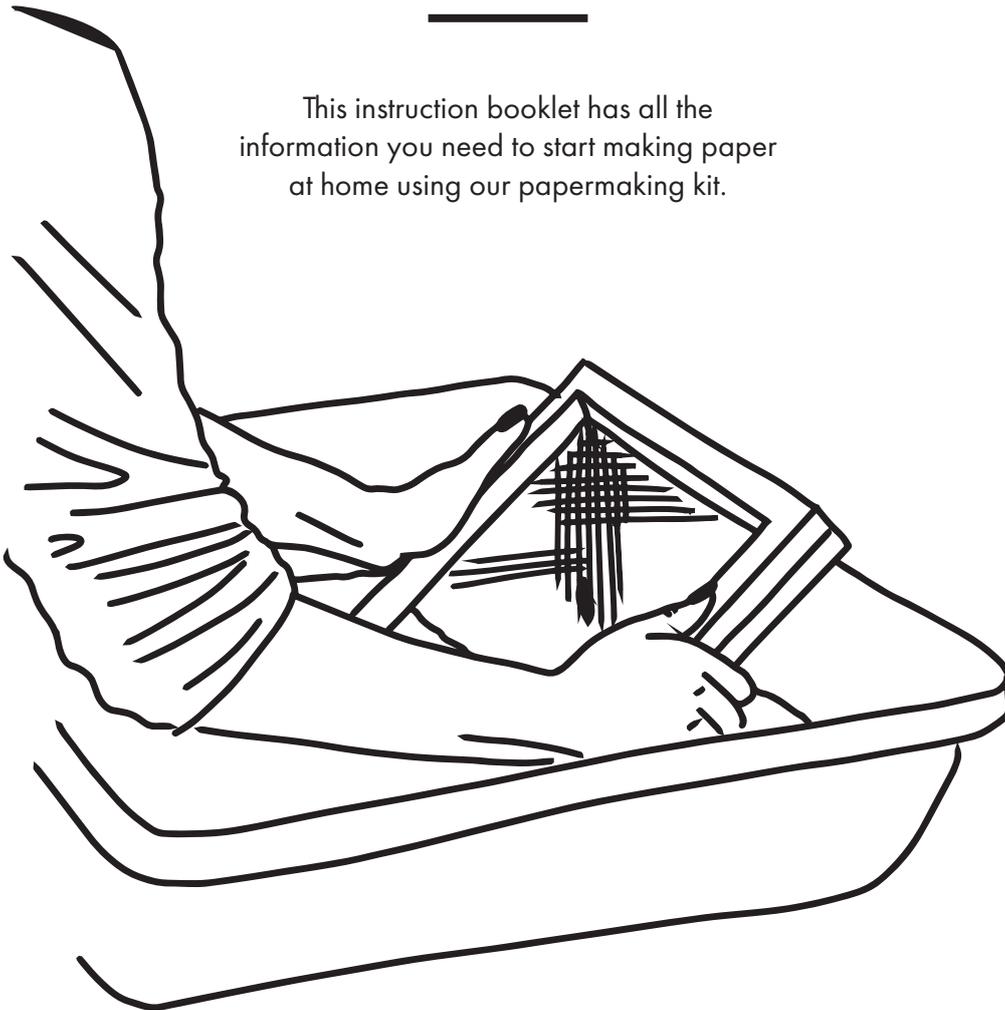


OPEN HANDS
CREATIVE

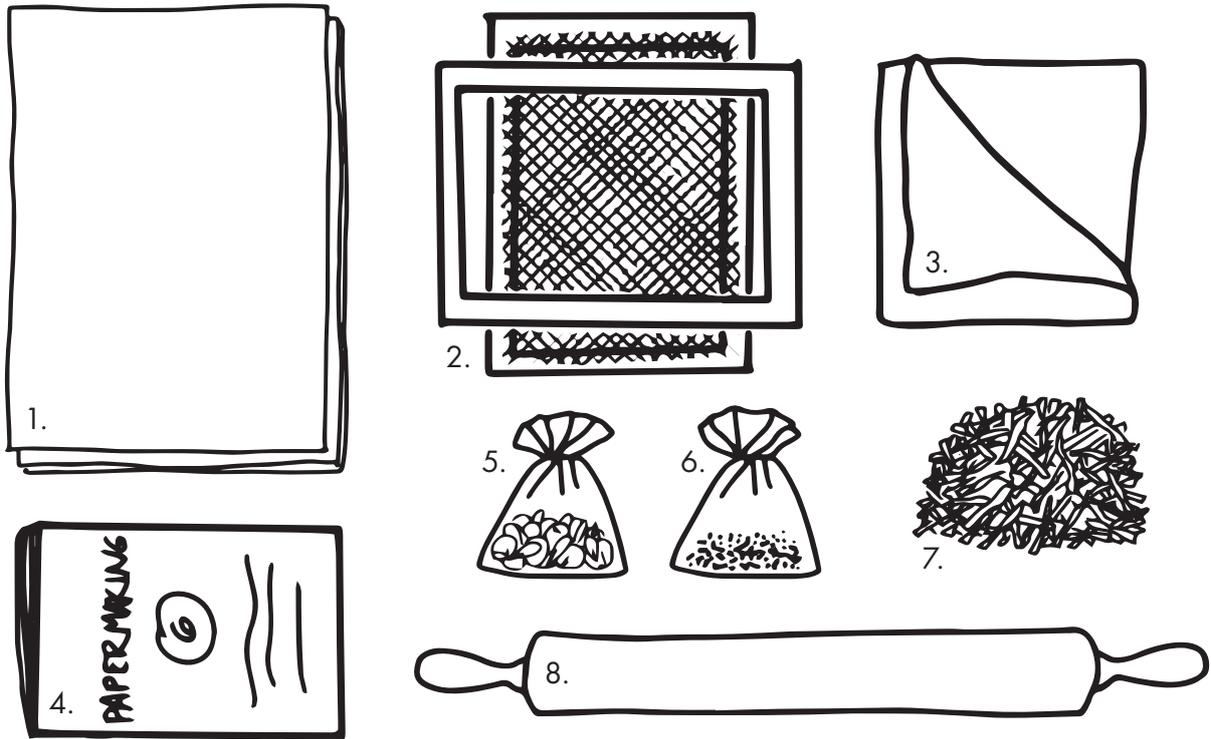
Papermaking

Kit

This instruction booklet has all the information you need to start making paper at home using our papermaking kit.



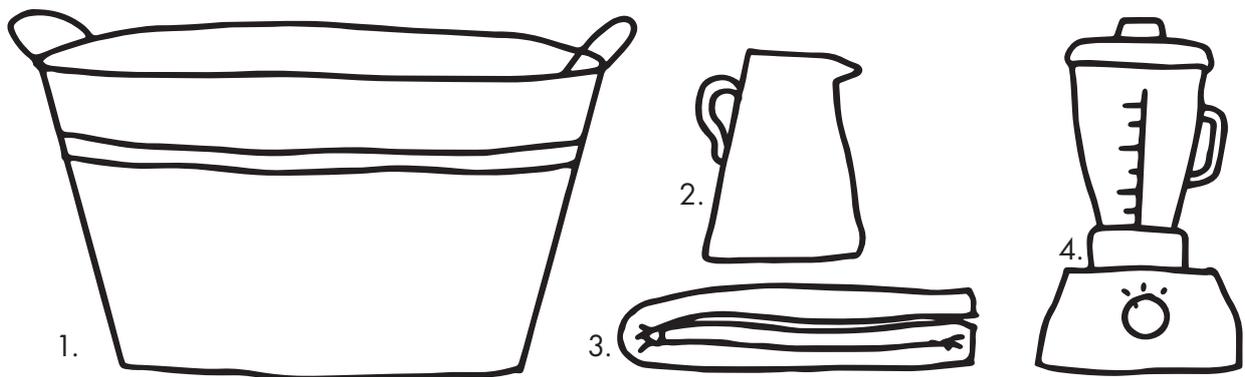
Included:



1. Couching Sheets* (10) 2. Mold and Deckle 3. Microfibre Cloth 4. Instructions 5. Bag of Petals
6. Bag of Seeds 7. Shredded Paper 8. Rolling Pin

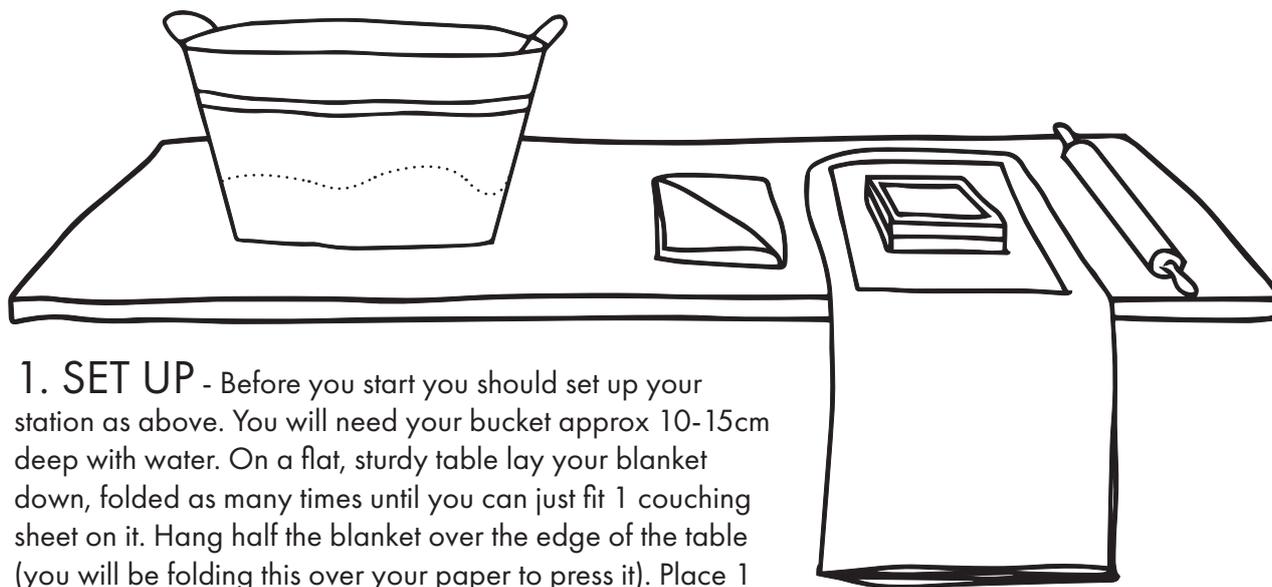
**If you need more couching cloths you can cut up an old or second hand bed sheet, 100% cotton is best.*

What you need at home:

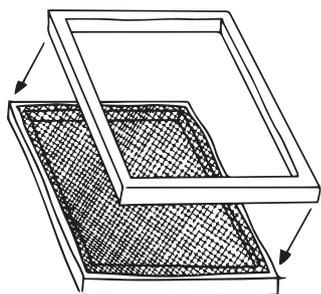


1. Vat: Big Bucket, Plastic Tub or Sink 2. Jug of Water 3. Large Smooth Blanket or Table Cloth* 4. Old Blender
**If you're just making white paper you can use a bedsheet you have and wash it. If making coloured paper or adding flowers and seeds it will leave a stain. We suggest getting a second hand flat sheet from an op shop. 100% cotton or flannel is best.*

Step-by-Step:



1. SET UP - Before you start you should set up your station as above. You will need your bucket approx 10-15cm deep with water. On a flat, sturdy table lay your blanket down, folded as many times until you can just fit 1 couching sheet on it. Hang half the blanket over the edge of the table (you will be folding this over your paper to press it). Place 1 couching sheet on top of the blanket. Have your cloth and rolling pin nearby.



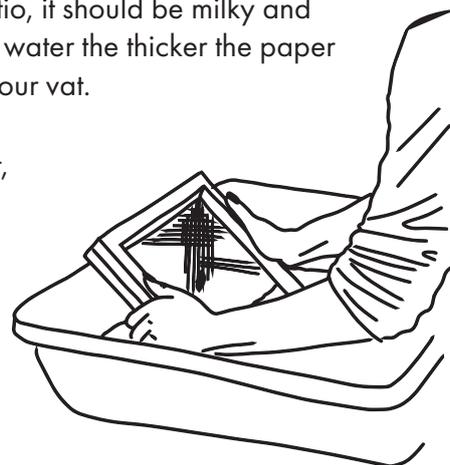
MOULD + DECKLE - Mould is the bottom with the mesh; always have mesh facing up. Deckle is the frame that sits on top. To put your mould and deckle together you put the mould on the bottom with the mesh facing up and the deckle on top. Very Important!

2. PULP - Make your pulp in a blender using torn up scrap paper with enough water to just cover it. Only fill your blender half way. The longer you blend the smoother your paper will be.

3. VAT - Pour your pulp into the vat. Test for water to pulp ratio, it should be milky and your hand should disappear about 3cm deep. The more pulp to water the thicker the paper will be. If you wish to add petals or seeds add them directly to your vat.

4. SWISH - Your paper will settle at the bottom of your vat, don't forget to give it a swish just before you pull a sheet; do this by placing an open hand, with fingers spread out into the vat and swishing.

5. PULL - Plunge your Mould and Deckle into vat at 45' angle until it sits flat at the bottom of your vat. Pull it out on a flat angle. Do all of this in a continuous motion at medium speed.



6. DRIP - Let your water drip back into the vat until the drips slow to almost a stop. Start flat until the stream slows to a drip then tilt one corner down. Only tilt slightly otherwise your paper will pool in one corner.

Step-by-Step:

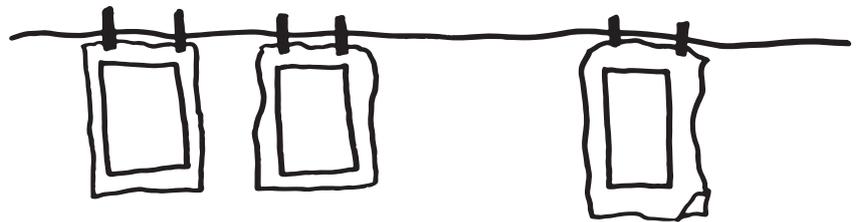
7. COUCH (pronounced "coo-ch") – Separate your mould and deckle. Place one edge of your mould on the couching sheet and flip over swiftly like you're closing a door. Then take the edge you placed down first and pull off swiftly like you're opening a door. The paper should be left behind on your couching sheet. If your paper isn't coming off the mould in one piece it could be because your paper is too wet or even too dry, try leaving it to drip for more or less time. Alternatively your blanket might be too wet, try flipping it over. If your paper doesn't come off correctly or you accidentally rip it you can just gather it up and put it back in your bucket.

8. PRESS – Hand press with sponge/rag first. Start softly and then increase pressure. Squeeze out water from cloth back into bucket. Then fold your blanket over the paper sheet and use a rolling pin to press. Again, start soft and end strong, using all your weight. What you're doing is aligning the paper fibres to make stronger paper.

9. DRY – Chose a drying method; Cloth, Window, Board, Press, No Restraint.

CLOTH DRYING - A very easy method that allows you to dry lots of paper, results in a slightly wavy paper. Simply leave your paper on the couching cloth and peg the cloth onto the washing line in the sun. Try to avoid extreme wind.

OTHER DRYING METHODS:



WINDOW DRYING - This creates a smooth surface on one side. To dry on window, take your paper to a clean window on a couching sheet and transfer to window using the sheet, smooth it down then peel the couching sheet away. Best left for 24 hours. This shouldn't damage your windows, wipe them down with window cleaner after to remove any leftover paper.

BOARD DRYING - This creates paper that is reasonably flat with some edge curling. Use a smooth, non absorbent surface like MDF board. Transfer by taking your paper on a couching sheet and transfer to board using the sheet, smooth it down then peel the couching sheet away. Leave in natural light but away from wind for 24 hours.

PRESS DRYING - This creates the smoothest, flattest paper. To press dry use dry, absorbent, smooth material like cloth or thick tissue paper between sheets of wet paper (you can create a stack of up to 10). Place in a press (our flower presses would work perfectly) or under a piece of board or large book, place a weight on top like a brick. Change absorbent material once a day. This can take a week or more depending on thickness.

NO RESTRAINT - This will result in the most wild paper, which can be very beautiful. To do no restraint drying, simply remove your paper from the couching sheet and place on a shelf or windowsill in natural light.

Step-by-Step:

10. CLEAN UP - You may find that your paper is getting too thin, this means you need more pulp or it's time to clean up! Start your clean up by whizzing some water through your blender to get the paper out (once it dries in there it's difficult to remove). Pour this water into your vat. Then use the water that has settled at the top to clean off your mould and deckle. Now pour your water through a sieve to collect any leftover paper pulp. You can use this water on your garden. If you were using a sink, scoop your sieve through your water as many times as possible to collect the paper pulp before draining.

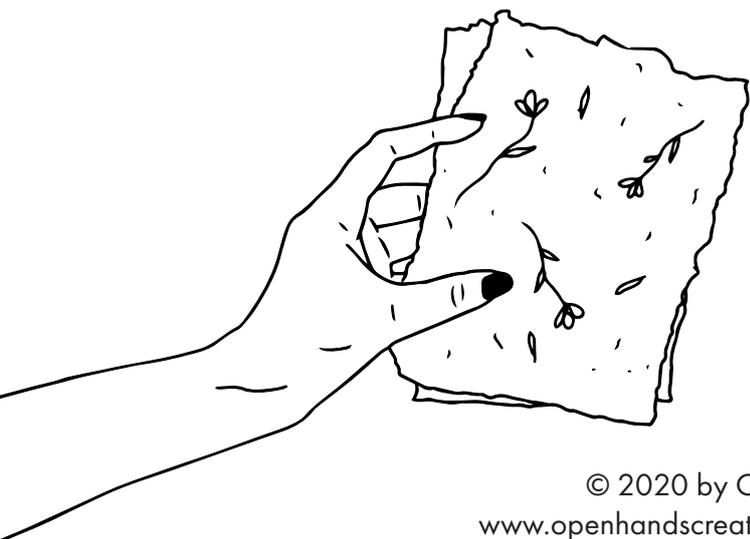
11. LEFT OVERS - You can use your left over pulp to make all sorts of paper projects, put it in your compost or save it for your next paper making adventure. To save paper pulp simply squeeze as much excess water out of it then squish it into a puck no more than 0.5cm thick and leave to dry.

12. EXPERIMENT - We love to see how you experiment, try using different coloured paper, use dried vegetable scraps, cardboard, grass, cloth add natural dye, essential oils. Put in seeds so that your paper can be planted and grow new life. Go crazy. And if you love it, post it and tag us @openhandscreative so we can see!

THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR PAPER

Make homemade cards: Birthdays, Christmas, Wedding invitations.
Make a notebook. Bind your pages together and keep it by your bed.
Bookmarks. Great to use up off-cuts after making other things.

If you're stuck, feel free to ask us hello@openhandscreative.com or google the problem.
A great resource is www.paperslurry.com



Thanks for making
paper with us!