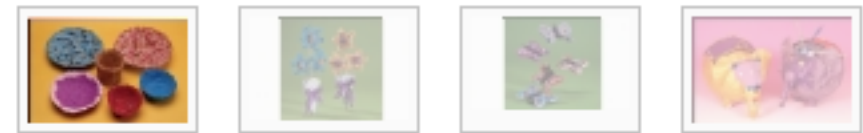


How To: **Make Papier Mâché**

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Papier mâché is a very versatile resource for art and craft work



Papier mâché, literally translated, means chewed paper. It is a cheap and versatile medium for art and crafts made by combining paper pulp with glue. Papier mâché is perfect for creating sculptures, models, and props for plays and assemblies. It is also very effective for making gifts, display items and creating masks for carnivals, projects and performances.

You don't need any specialist materials or expertise to work with papier mâché, just a good recipe, some recycled common household items to create a base or armature, and plenty of imagination. There are several different ways to make it. Wallpaper paste or other adhesives are commonly used to make the glue. Alternative recipes use natural ingredients, like this one. If you do use wallpaper paste make sure that it's anti-fungal.

Ingredients:

- Flour
- Water
- Newspaper, shredded or torn

Make

- ➔ Shred or tear the newspaper into strips of approximately 2cm wide and 8cm long and soak in hot water overnight in a bucket. Tear the paper with the grain.
- ➔ Knead the soaked newspaper into a pulp using your hands, a potato masher, or even a liquidiser half-full of water.
- ➔ Sieve and drain well, squeezing out as much water as possible, to leave a crumbly pulp.
- ➔ Make the glue by mixing the flour and the water to form a creamy consistency. Use 1 part flour to 2 parts water and mix well to remove any lumps.
- ➔ Add the glue to the paper paste until it feels like soft clay. If you need to strengthen the mixture, add some sawdust.

This recipe can be used for layering and pulp methods of papier mâché. You can also make the glue by mixing 2-3 parts PVA to 1 part water. Find the style that suits you best!

Tip

If you are using a mould you may want to coat it with a release agent to make sure that your creation doesn't break as you remove it. This can be vegetable oil, vaseline or cling film.

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