

Fun with Science!



MAKING RECYCLED PAPER

When you put clean, dry paper in your blue recycle bin, it gets sent to a mill where it is made into new paper. Recycling paper saves water and energy. It also saves trees as new trees don't have to be cut down when making new paper from old paper.

Question: What do trees give us besides paper? List three things: 1) _____, 2) _____ and 3) _____.

In this activity, you will turn your home into a paper mill and make new paper from old.



What you will need:

- paper from your recycle bin
- an old kitchen blender
- towels
- water
- sponge
- wire mesh stretched on any-shaped frame
- cutting board

Check out [the video](#) on how to make recycled paper and try it on your own using the list of materials provided. Double check that you have an **old** blender. Once you use it to make paper, you may not want to make smoothies in it again! GOOD LUCK!



The steps for making paper: 1) tear up bits of paper from the recycle bin and put into blender. Not too much, 1-2 pages is enough. 2) Add lots of water. 3) Blend the paper on high to make **PULP**. 10-15 seconds should do it. 4) Re-shape the pulp by pouring it onto a mesh screen. 5) Press out the water by using towels and sponges. 6) Remove paper from screen and use a towel, cutting board and your own body weight to press out more water. 6) Remove from towel and let paper dry. Once the new paper is dry, you can write on it, color it, and cut it into shapes just like any other paper. You can even add a bit of colored paper to the pulp in the blender if you want new paper to have pizzazz!



This lesson is brought to you by The Spokane County Regional Solid Waste System, a proud sponsor of the EnviroKids Club. You can learn more about reducing your waste by practicing the 3 Rs at TalkTrashSpokane.com.

