

# PAPER *to* PLANT

Green up your stationery with seed-paper cards and tags for a craft sure to get the bees buzzing

**T**urn old newspapers, cereal boxes and junk mail into gorgeous sheets of recycled paper for stationery, gift tags and cards. You can use a simple paper-making process to produce a pulp that doesn't require any special equipment. The end result is a textured paper with a more natural look than store-bought options. Adding seeds to the pulp mix means the finished result is a paper you can plant. It's the gift that keeps on giving!



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## EASY STEPS TO YOUR SEED PAPER



**STEP 1**



**STEP 3**



**STEP 5**



**STEP 2**



**STEP 4**



**STEP 6**

### Gather your supplies

- Paper (non glossy)
  - Blender
- Old picture frames (2)
  - Flyscreen wire
  - Seeds
- Cookie cutters

### You'll also need

Bucket; scissors; large tubs (2); plastic serving spoon; masking tape; food colouring (optional); muslin; old towels; lint-free cloths; stamps (optional)

### For you to note

- Paper-making is a messy and wet process, so it is best to work on a well-protected work surface.
- Warmer weather is ideal for making paper using this technique, as the heat helps the paper dry quickly.

### Here's how

**STEP 1** Tear up paper into small pieces and soak in a bucket of warm water for 20 minutes, or overnight.

**STEP 2** Put soaked paper in the blender, then fill halfway with fresh water. Blend until mixture is pulpy.

**STEP 3** Pour the blended paper mixture into a tub, then add water and mix with a plastic serving spoon until soupy.

**STEP 4** Dismantle picture frames. Set aside mat board and glass. Cut flyscreen to frame size with 30-50mm extra all around. Secure flyscreen to frame with masking tape.

**STEP 5** Attach masking tape to another frame and place over screened frame.

**STEP 6** If you want to make coloured paper, add food colouring to the pulp and mix it in well.

## TYPES OF SEEDS

Small seeds are best for plantable paper, especially if you plan to write on it. Flower seeds, a wildflower mix, or herbs and vegetables will all work. To start, try thyme, lavender and forget-me-not seeds. And don't forget to add an instruction card so the recipient knows how to use the paper and what will grow from it. They need to place the seed paper on soil or potting mix, cover with 10mm of the growing medium, then water it in. Keep the grow mix moist until germination, which will take a few weeks, depending on the seed type.

“ This is a great project to do with the kids in the school holidays ”



**STEP 7**



**STEP 9**



**STEP 8**



**STEP 10**



**STEP 11**



**STEP 12**



**STEP 13**

**STEP 7** Position frame over empty tub, and scoop pulp over the mesh.

**STEP 8** Tilt the frame from side to side so the excess pulp drops into the tub.

**STEP 9** Sprinkle seeds over the pulp in the mesh frame, ladle over more pulp and drain again.

**STEP 10** Separate the frames and place the mesh frame on a piece of muslin, on a towel.

**STEP 11** Use a lint-free cloth to press the pulp through the mesh.

**STEP 12** Lift the mesh frame off the muslin. Peg up the fabric and paper to dry.

**STEP 13** Use stamps to add words or a greeting, or decorate the side of the paper that doesn't have the seeds. ■

**GIFT TAGS**  
To make a gift tag, you can use cookie cutter shapes as the mould.

- Prepare the pulp as before, but this time place a cutter shape onto the screen and pour some pulp in, sprinkle with seeds and then pour over a little more pulp.
- Use a small sponge to blot off excess water, then remove the cutter and allow to dry.
- Punch a small hole at the top for threading ribbon.

