Paper Mache Recipe Card

FREE PRINTABLE RECIPE CARD

Ages 4+ • Dries hard in 24–48 hours

RECIPE 1 · FLOUR — THE CLASSIC

You need: 1 cup flour, 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon salt. Whisk until smooth — like thin pancake batter. The salt helps stop mold as it dries.

RECIPE 2 · GLUE — STRONGER & CLEARER

You need: 1 cup white glue (PVA), 1/2 cup water. Stir until combined — this paper mache glue recipe dries harder and clearer.

YOU NEED

- ☐ Newspaper, torn into strips
- ☐ A mold — a balloon is easiest
- ☐ Petroleum jelly
- ☐ Bowl, whisk and spoon
- ☐ Paints and brushes, for later
- ☐ An apron or table cover

MAKE IT

1. Tear your newspaper into strips about 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide. Torn edges blend better than cut edges.
2. Coat your mold with a thin layer of petroleum jelly, so the dried shell pops off easily later.
3. Dip a strip into the paste, slide it between two fingers to wipe off the extra, and lay it smoothly on the mold.
4. Keep adding strips, overlapping them, until the mold is covered — 3–4 layers in total. Let the paste get tacky between layers if it feels soggy.
5. Leave your project somewhere breezy for 24–48 hours, until it feels hard and sounds hollow when you tap it.
6. Pop the balloon and lift the shell off the mold. A grown-up can trim rough edges. Then paint and decorate!

★ TIP

Too thick? Add water a spoonful at a time. Too runny? Whisk in flour (or glue) a spoonful at a time. Lumpy? Whisk longer, or pour it through a sieve.