



## How To Make a Papier Maché Pencil Pot or Bowl

Don't throw away yesterday's newspaper; turn it into a fun item for your room instead!

### You Will Need

newspaper/ magazine/ comic  
1 cup plain flour  
6 cups water  
4 tablespoons salt  
beaker or bowl  
saucepan  
wooden spoon  
mixing bowl  
Vaseline  
cling film  
paint brush  
paints (optional)

### Instructions

1. First of all you need to make the papier maché paste. Put 4 cups of water into the saucepan, place on the hob, and bring to the boil. (You may need an adult to help you with this bit.)
2. While you are waiting for the water to boil, mix together 1 cup of flour with 2 cups of water and stir well until there are no lumps.
3. When the water in the saucepan is boiling, turn down the heat and carefully add your flour and water mixture. Simmer for 2-3 minutes until smooth.
4. Add the salt and give the mixture a good stir.
5. Allow the paste to cool completely before you use it (this will take a few hours).
6. Tear your newspaper into small pieces; roughly 2 cm x 5 cm, but it's ok if they're all slightly different shapes and sizes.

7. Take the beaker or bowl – this is the mould for your pot or bowl – and rub some Vaseline over the outside surface.

8. Next, wrap the outside of the beaker/ bowl in cling film, and fold the loose ends inside.

9. Now your mould is ready to start applying the papier maché. Brush a little bit of paste onto one side of a paper strip and stick it in place on the cling film. Brush some more paste over the top then move onto the next piece of paper.

10. Keep adding pieces of paper, overlapping and sticking them in different directions. Remember to only cover the outside of the beaker/ bowl, from the rim around the top, all over the sides, and the bottom.

11. When the whole beaker/ bowl is covered, leave it to dry in a warm place (a sunny windowsill is a good spot). Once it is completely dry to the touch, add a second layer of paper and leave to dry. Then add a third layer and leave to dry again.

12. To remove your papier maché, undo the loose ends of cling film inside the beaker/ bowl. Gently pull the cling film, and it should slowly slip off of the mould, taking the papier maché with it. Peel the cling film away from the inside.

13. You can either leave your finished pot or bowl plain, or paint it your favourite colour.