



Papercrete

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An Introduction to Papercrete

Created for OASIS Farms, a non-profit venue of OASIS , Inc.

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- What is papercrete?
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- More about Papercrete

What is
papercrete?



Dallasnews Administrator, Make creative flowerpots using papercrete. (Dec. 17, 2014)
Retrieved 2/5/20
<https://www.dallasnews.com/arts-entertainment/lifestyle/2014/12/17/make-creative-flowerpots-using-papercrete/>



Fairy Gardens CA, Small batch papercrete papercrete. (n.d.) Retrieved 06/06/2016
(site no longer exists)



Spike3579. I Love Papercrete, (n.d.). Instructables
Retrieved 09/12/2016 from
<https://www.instructables.com/id/I-Love-Papercrete/>

Papercrete is a material that can be molded.



Paper pulp made
from shred



Portland
cement



Sand

Papercrete is made up of three ingredients

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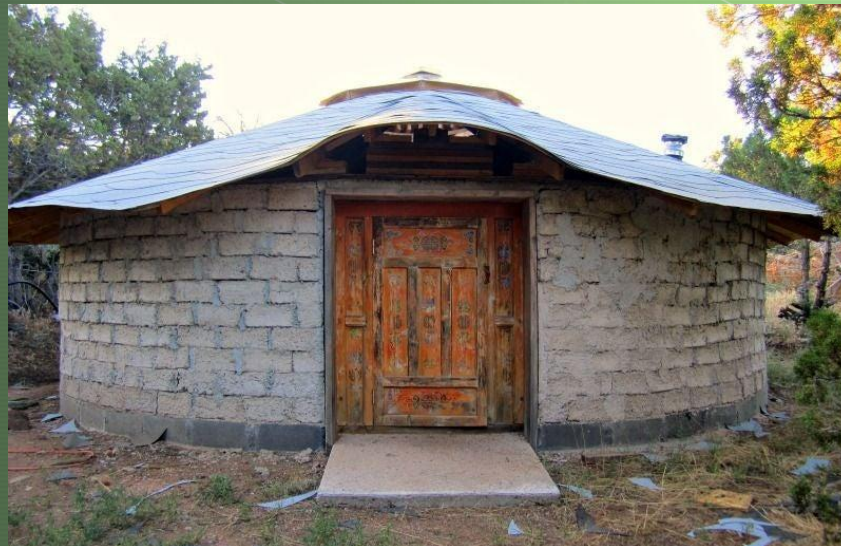
First patented in 1928,
the fibrous medium
has many uses.



As a green building material



Fouts, Lillyann. Earthbag House Project, (Feb. 17, 2015)
Retrieved 2/1/2020 from <http://www.lilyannfouts.com/tag/papercrete/>



Spike3579. I Love Papercrete, (n.d.). Instructables.
Retrieved 2/2/2020 from <https://www.instructables.com/id/I-Love-Papercrete/>



Designboom. Papercrete furniture: unpolished by Dik Scheepers. (n.d.)
Retrieved 2/5/2020 from
<https://www.designboom.com/design/papercrete-furniture-unpolished-by-dik-scheepers/>

As eco-friendly furniture

As handmade pottery

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Papercrete at OASIS Farms

At OASIS Farms we have experimented with a variety of papercrete formulas and techniques. Our main focus is papercrete pottery made from the paper shred done at the farm.



Making Papercrete Pottery at OASIS Farms

The following slides depict the steps of
making papercrete pottery the OASIS way.



Materials

Wet shred is located in the blue barrel outside. All other materials are located on the all-purpose room shelves.

You will need:

- Wet shredded paper
- Buckets
- Water
- Portland cement
- Sand
- Measuring container/scoops
- Assorted molding tools
- Mold containers
- Cooking spray or petroleum jelly
- Rags
- Vinyl gloves
- Eye protection
- Drill with cement mixer

Follow a 3-2-1 Ratio

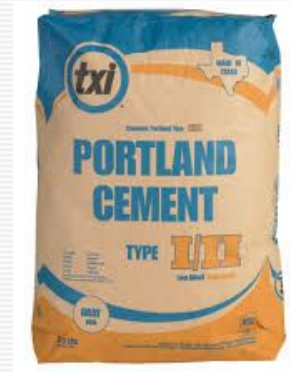
The
3-2-1
Recipe



3 parts paper pulp



2 parts Portland cement



1 part sand



1

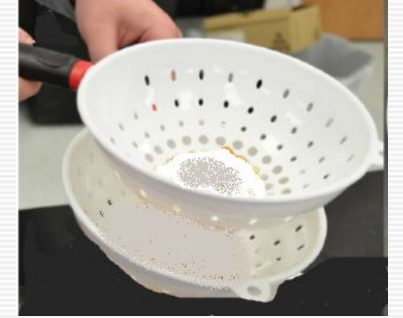
Pulp the wet paper shred

- Fill a bucket halfway with wet paper shred
- Add water to cover the shred
- Use the electric drill with cement mixer attachment to pulp the paper



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Drain pulp



- Use one of these methods to drain excess water from pulp
 - Hand squeeze
 - Squeeze on a sieve
 - Squeeze between plastic colanders
- Test the mix
 - Pulp should be wet enough to form a patty



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Combine ingredients

- Combine ingredients in a bucket
- Use a measuring scoop and follow the 3-2-1 ratio



- 3 scoops of paper pulp



- 2 scoops of Portland cement



- 1 scoop of sand



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Mix together

- Use the electric drill with cement mixer attachment to mix all ingredients together
- Periodically stir the mixture up from the bottom to ensure all ingredients are combined
- Continue to mix until the papercrete is consistent and forms a pancake



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Test the papercrete

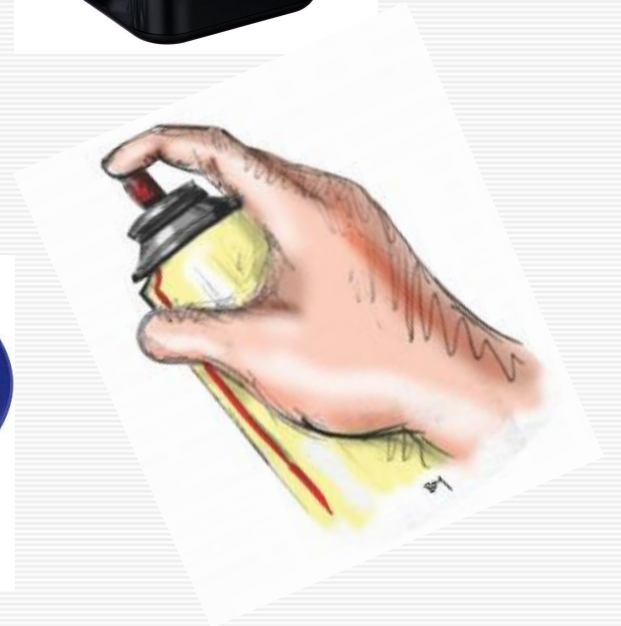
- Add water if a ball of the papercrete is dry or cracking
- Add sand or cement if the mixture appears runny
- The papercrete is ready if you can pat it into a smooth patty



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Prep your mold

- Select an empty container to mold the papercrete
 - Dollar Store bowls
 - Fast food containers
 - Assorted tins and old plasticware
- Lubricate the inside of the mold
 - Use cooking spray (preferred)
 - Or, petroleum jelly



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Fill the mold

- Start at the bottom of the container
 - Firmly press papercrete onto the bottom of the mold
 - Maintain a thickness of about ½ inch
 - Use the pipe tool provided to smooth the papercrete
- Work the papercrete up the sides of the container
 - Continue to press the papercrete into place moving up the container sides
 - Maintain the ½ inch thickness
 - Use the tools and water as needed
 - Cover all the way to the container's lip



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Finishing up

- Garden pottery
 - Use the end of a pointed tool, stick or pencil to make a drainage hole in a piece intended for planting
 - Water that collects in the bottom of the mold can be gently soaked up with a rag
- Decorative dish
 - Creations intended to hold a candle, potpourri or wrapped candy do not need drainage
 - Again, a rag can be used to soak up excess water



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Drying time



- Set the container in a ventilated space to dry. This is called curing.
 - OASIS staff will direct you to the various drying racks
 - Allow the pottery to cure for one week.
- Remove the formed pottery from its container and gently replace it on the drying rack.
- Leave piece in place until it is completely dry
 - Drying times vary with seasons and weather conditions



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Sanding



- Sand the dry piece as needed
 - Hand sand with sandpaper or sanding blocks
 - Use one of the electric sanders for heavier sanding
 - Be careful not to over sand
 - Wear face protection and gloves while sanding
- Grinder



If your piece needs heavier sanding to shape it, the OASIS staff can assist you with the grinding machine

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Sealing

- Sealing
 - Pottery pieces can be sealed with a brush on cement sealant
 - Face and hand protection should be worn
 - Pieces can also be sprayed with a clear sealer
 - Sprays should be used outdoors with proper face and hand protection
 - Follow the directions on the sealant label and allow for ample drying time



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Enjoy!



- Your completed pottery piece is ready to enjoy!
- Plant pieces made as garden pottery
- Decorate pieces with paint or papercrete embellishments
- Fill pottery with potpourri, candles or wrapped candies



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Links

Use the links below to learn more about this fascinating medium

- [*The Papercrete Potter*](#)
- [*What is Papercrete? Its Properties, Uses and Benefits in Construction*](#)
- [*Papercrete*](#)
- [*I Love Papercrete*](#)
- [*Papercrete Pots*](#)
- [*Papercrete Construction*](#)
- [*Making Papercrete*](#)



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