Building with Paper-Crete for Kids!

Paper-Crete is a type of building material made of 50-80% recycled paper. It can be used to build benches, walls, and even houses! It is non-flammable, an insulator, and cheaper than building with concrete. Here is a recipe that has proven to be effective, but you can alter it to fit your own needs.

**Ingredients for 1 small Brick (6 inches wide x 12 inches long x 6 inches deep, 1/3 the size of a brick used for building a house or a bench):**

- **Cement** – .5 lbs
- **Sand** – .5 lbs
- **Water** – 1 gallon
- **Paper** – 1 lb

**Other Materials Needed:**

- **Bucket** – to mix in
- **Masher** – to stir and mash mixture
- **Molds** – to pour mixture into

**Ten Steps to Making Paper-Crete:**

1. Tear paper into small pieces
2. Mix paper with water
3. Mash paper to form a pulpy substance
4. Divide up clumps with hands
5. Add sand
6. Add cement
7. Mix immediately
8. Mix together 3 of the above recipe batches together to form one large brick
9. Pour into mold and level off. Water will drain out the bottom.
10. Let dry 1-2 weeks

Now you’re ready to build!

**Types of paper:**

You can use a variety of types of paper:

- **Newspapers** work best because they dissolve in water quickly
- **Office paper** also works fairly well
- **Cardboard** will take more time and water to soften
- **Magazines** can be used in combination with other papers, but not alone

We would love to hear what you learn from working with Paper-Crete! Check out the website [www.livinginpaper.org](http://www.livinginpaper.org) for more information.