

Recycled Paper Christmas Ornaments

Shred office paper, construction paper or newspaper and let it soak in a pan of water over night. Put one cup of wet paper and 3 cups of warm water in a blender and reduce to a pulp. Pour pulp over screen or into a colander to drain off some of the water. Mix one cup of pulp and 3 teaspoons of plaster of Paris in a bowl, making sure to mix well. (Plaster of Paris is optional, you can make the ornaments without it, just make sure the pulp is pressed into the mold as tightly as possible) Take a hand full of pulp mixture and press a thin layer of pulp into a cookie cutter or a chocolate mold. Take a 10 inch piece of string, fold it in half, and tie a long enough loop to hang on a Christmas tree branch. Press the knot of the loop in the pulp at the top of the mold, leaving the loop hanging out of the top. Press more pulp on top of the string to keep it in place. Keep pressing in pulp until the mold is full. Take paper towels or sheets of newspaper and press it on the molds until you press as much of the water off as possible. Let dry then pop ornament out of mold. Paint a wash of $\frac{1}{2}$ water and $\frac{1}{2}$ Elmer's glue onto both sides of the ornament. (Glue and water wash is optional) Let dry then paint.

