

## Odyssey Of The Mind Technology Fair

### Paper Mache

There are many different recipes available for paper mache paste. No one recipe is better than another. Experiment to find your favorite.

#### **No-Cook Paper Mache Paste Recipe**

(Materials Needed: Water, Flour, Salt) Mix 1 part flour to 2 parts water. Add a 1-2 tablespoons of salt to help prevent mold. Paste should be the consistency of pancake batter. Add more water or flour as necessary. Mix well to remove any lumps. Store paste in a covered bowl or jar in the refrigerator, for a few days.

#### **Cooked Paper Mache Paste Recipe**

**\*\*Caution: Hot paste can splatter.** This paste recipe is a little stronger and smoother than the no-cook version. (Materials Needed: Water, Flour, Salt) Bring 4 parts water and 2 tablespoons salt to a boil. While waiting for the water to boil, mix 1 part flour and 1 part warm water, stir briskly to remove lumps. Remove boiling water from heat. Slowly stir the water and flour mixture into the boiling water. (Caution: Mixture may splatter.) Continue to stir for one minute to prevent lumps. Paste should be smooth and have the consistency of pancake batter. If necessary, add water or flour in *small* amounts until the desired consistency is reached. Allow to cool completely before use. Store paste in a covered bowl or jar in the refrigerator, for a few days.

**Also try:**           Liquid starch (undiluted)  
                          Wallpaper paste. (Follow the directions from the manufacturer)  
                          Regular white glue mixed with water. Mix 1 part water with 2 parts glue.

#### **Paper Mache Tips**

- Look at pictures and sketch the object before you begin to build it.
- Protect your work area.
- An electric mixer works well for getting rid of lumps.
- Tear newspaper into 2 inch wide strips before mixing paste.
- Do not use shiny paper, it doesn't absorb the paste well.
- For larger objects use an internal structure. Balloons, chicken wire frames, plastic bottles, cans, cardboard tubes, . . .
- Only 4 layers thick - any more will take too long to dry and may mold.
- Make sure final layer is really smooth. Edges not smoothed down will lift while drying.
- Allow to dry completely before painting.
- Use thin coats of paint to keep the paper mache from getting soft again.
- Flour recipes are the least expensive method.
- Check out on-line galleries for examples of items constructed with paper mache.
- Video demonstrations are available on YouTube.