

## 136 ideas for reusing and recycling newspapers

**Newsprint is a sustainable product.** Australian made newsprint contains 20-40% recycled fibre from old newspapers. The rest is wood fibre which comes from waste products of the timber industry: sawlog off cuts; forest thinning (branches and small trees that are removed from plantations to allow room for other trees to grow); plus the residue when a plantation is harvested to produce wood for housing and construction. All wood fibre is sourced from sustainably managed timber plantations.

*Source: The Publishers National Environment Bureau (PNEB), 2004*

### At school

1. Increase vocabulary by finding new words.
2. Do a scavenger hunt/word search.
3. Practice writing capital letters.
4. Roll into tubes to build geodesic dome.
5. Create a scrapbook of important stories.
6. Make a book.
7. Clean the chalkboard.
8. Make comic books.
9. Use as the background of a bulletin board.
10. Use as backing for magic marker art projects.
11. Use to cover work books.
12. Practice cutting skills.
13. If it's windy outside, see how far pieces of newspaper will blow. Do flat pieces blow further than folded or crumpled ones?
14. Experiment to see how many times you can fold a full sheet of newspaper.
15. See how many times you can fold a full sheet of newspaper and still be able to tear it in half.

### Around the house

16. Roll the paper into logs for burning in a fireplace or wood burning stove.
17. Shred newspaper to use as packing material, for storage or moving belongings.
18. Hang as temporary curtains.
19. Keep boots upright with a roll of newspaper.
20. Stuff smelly shoes with newspaper to absorb odours.
21. Use yesterday's newspaper as wallpaper in the guest toilet, it'll be a great talking point!
22. Fold up a few sheets of paper and shove them under a door to stop a draught blowing through your home.
23. When painting a wall push paper up against it to avoid paint-splattered floors

24. Spread newspaper underneath that wooden chair you're painting.
25. Roll a piece of newspaper into a funnel and stick it to a wall with masking tape underneath the point you're drilling.
26. Stuff newspaper into wet shoes and leave them to dry overnight.
27. When painting walls place newspapers on the floor to catch paint splatters,
28. When painting window trim, wet sheets of paper and stick on windows, to reduce splatters on window glass.
29. Pack newspapers in damp or smelly luggage to absorb odours.
30. Stuff paper into an esky or camping cooler when packing away for the winter so that it won't smell in the Spring.
31. Cover your craft area with newspaper - the all-purpose work table protector!
32. Use as emergency toilet paper.
33. Put on floor when shelling peanuts.
34. Tape up as temporary replacement for broken window.
35. Layers of newspaper are great insulation, for cooling or heating.
36. Wrap around ice cream containers to keep ice cream cool.
37. Stuff inside your coat or under blankets to keep warm in an emergency.
38. Use as table cloth padding.
39. Use as a place mat or tablecloth when eating messy food.
40. Substitute shredded or crumpled paper for Styrofoam. Put sheets of newspaper through a paper shredder to create stuffing material, or just crumple them into loose balls for extra padding.
41. When putting away fine china, place folded squares of newspaper between plates and bowls to protect them. Wrap the whole stack in another sheet before placing them in fabric cases or boxes.
42. Fold and use as a coaster for cold drinks.
43. Use as disposable plate when eating watermelon.
44. Insulate water pipes in winter.
45. Use as a doorstop.

## **In the kitchen**

46. Messy dinner? Newspaper's a classic tablecloth when boiled shrimp, lobster or watermelon's on the menu.
47. Spread out newspaper to catch the silk when shucking corn.
48. Line the shelf of a smelly fridge with newspaper overnight to absorb the odours.
49. Place a piece in the vegetable drawer to keep produce dry.
50. Leave a balled up piece of newspaper inside overnight in plastic food canisters to absorb the odours.
51. Wrap fruit it in newspaper If you want it to ripen quickly.
52. Enhance the indoor compost bin with a few sheets of newspaper.
53. Use for messy cleanup jobs like cleaning the oven. Use sheets of crumpled newspaper to wipe up most of the gunk before wiping down with a soapy wet sponge.
54. Use as an apron.

55. Use as a bib.
56. Use as a place mat for a hot coffee pot.
57. Use for ironing ties
58. Use as pot holder.

## **In the garden**

59. Use newspaper to balance out the vegetables in your compost pile and get the carbon/nitrogen mixture just right.
60. Germinate seeds for the spring garden by spreading between damp sheets of newspaper.
61. Place overlapping layers of wet newspaper around your plants to prevent weeds.
62. Use as worm food.
63. Laying sheets of newspapers in garden beds before covering with wood chips, mulch or decorative rocks. Thoroughly moisten the newspaper before covering with the mulch so they stay in place.
64. Make garden seed starting pots.

## **Cleaning**

65. Crumpled newspaper makes mirrors and glass shine. Just spray the surface with glass cleaner and use them as you would regular paper towels.
66. Newsprint, sprinkled with white vinegar and water can tackle many household jobs, from glass to floors.
67. Use to absorb spills instead of paper towel.
68. Empty the vacuum cleaner on it.
69. Scoop up dead bugs.
70. Use rolled up to beat rugs.
71. Clean car windows.
72. Use as a dust pan.
73. Cover the floor when transferring potted plants.
74. Line trash cans.

## **Outdoors**

75. Shade the sun from your eyes.
76. Start a barbecue.
77. Use for tablecloth at picnic.
78. Swat flies.
79. Cook fish on a campfire by rolling the fish tightly in a couple sheets of wet newspaper.
80. Clean fish on it.
81. Place under the car when there is an oil leak.
82. Wipe dirty shoes on it.
83. Sit on it at a football game.
84. Cover your head when it rains.
85. Mask a car for painting.
86. Use as temporary bases in softball.

87. Place on the windshield of a car to prevent icing in a cold climate.

## Caring for animals

88. Teach a dog to fetch with a rolled newspaper.
89. Line the bottom of pet cages (birds, rabbit, hamster...etc)
90. Tear it up for a litter box.
91. Line worm bins.
92. Line the bottom of a cat litter tray before adding cat litter, to make the cleanup easier and to keep awful smells to a minimum.
93. Take newspapers to the local veterinarian or animal shelter for use in the cages.

## Just for fun

94. Wrap parcels and gifts. Use sections of newspaper that correspond to the gift or personality of the recipient. For example, if giving a gift to an accountant, use the financial section or stock listings. Wrap home-related items in the lifestyle or decorating section.
95. Cut into pieces and make a puzzle.
96. Make a fireman's hat.
97. Roll up to make telescope.
98. Roll up to make a megaphone.
99. Make a collage.
100. Make a fan.
101. Make your own piñata.
102. Make confetti.
103. Finger-paint on it.
104. Make a kite.
105. Fill Santa Claus' belly.
106. Make paper dolls.
107. Practice stapling.
108. Stuff pillows.
109. Stuff a scarecrow.
110. Make paper Mache.
111. Make a paper chain.
112. Make Origami.
113. Use as a dartboard.
114. Make a paper boat.
115. Make a paper airplane.
116. Save the seat next to you.
117. Stuff in shirt to make muscles.
118. Use a backing for wax transfers.
119. A wrapper for used chewing gum.
120. Cut out a comic and use as a bookmark.
121. Tear strips for birthday party streamers.
122. Use comics to wrap gifts for children.
123. Roll and use as a practice bat for softball.
124. Create a rustling sound effect for home movies.



125. Roll flat paper into cones and use them to try and catch rolled up newspaper balls.
126. Make lots of newspaper balls and draw a circle on the ground. Throw the balls into the circle.
127. Make 'new' paper from used newspaper.

## **Other...**

128. Strengthen fingers and forearms by laying a single sheet of newspaper on a flat surface and then lay your hand palm down in the centre. Using only that hand, begin crumpling the newspaper and see how small a ball you can crumple it into.
129. Use as a light reflector when taking photographs.
130. Use as funnel for filling gas tank.
131. Take out frustration by tearing and throwing.
132. Collect hair when cutting.
133. Blot your lipstick.
134. Make a dress pattern for sewing.
135. Become eco friendly and make paper bags of various sizes for carrying 'stuff'
136. Re-read it!

***Have you got some ideas for reusing and recycling newspapers? Email us your suggestions to [heraldeducation@fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:heraldeducation@fairfaxmedia.com.au)***