

## Recipes for Pure Rice Starch Paste

1) This neutral pH rice starch powder is made from glutinous rice, so mixing and cooking it on the stove is not necessary. If your tap water has a high mineral content, use distilled water instead.

1. Place 3 tablespoons of rice starch powder in 1 cup of boiling water.
2. Stir briskly with a wire whisk until smooth. If there are lumps left, pour the hot mixture through a strainer and discard the lumps.
3. Cool before using. The rice paste will thicken as it cools.

This recipe will produce a paste that is about the consistency of heavy cream or yogurt. For a thicker paste, use 4 tablespoons of rice starch; for a thinner paste, use 2 tablespoons.

2) If you prefer to cook the paste, this recipe is from *The Art & Craft of Woodblock Printmaking*. The measurements are metric with approximate American equivalents in parentheses.

1. Mix 2 tablespoons of rice starch with .5dl (3½ tablespoons) cold water
2. Stir until smooth and milky
3. Bring 150ml (2/3 cup) of water almost to the boil
4. Add the paste mix in a smooth ribbon while stirring
5. Bring to a boil and keep stirring constantly until the mix goes translucent (about five minutes)
6. Cool, stirring from time to time

The mixture will thicken as it cools. If it is too thick, thin with water. If it is too thin, make a new mixture but this time make it extra thick so you can add it to the first mixture. Combining the two will give the optimal thickness.

## Using Dry Rice Starch for Collage

Dry Pure Rice Starch can be used to glue papers together for collage. This method eliminates any chance of damaging delicate papers from brushing on paste.

Use papers that can be dampened. Test handmade paper first; they can fall apart if they become too wet. The support paper should be heavier than the paper backing.

- Dampen the support paper by either placing it in a damp pack or dipping it briefly into a tray of water. Remove excess water by blotting with a towel.
- Dampen the back of the collage paper with a mister. Place face down on a dry sheet of newsprint.
- Place the dry Pure Rice Starch into a very fine mesh strainer and sprinkle it lightly and evenly over the damp collage paper. Lift the paper up and shake or tap off any excess. Be careful to keep the starch off the top side of the paper.
- Place the support paper on the press bed and position the collage paper on top, starch side down. Top with a piece of waxed paper and run through the press.

The glued paper will want to buckle as it dries. To prevent buckling, layer the paper between plenty of blotters or newsprint, and top with a light weight (one or two thin plywood boards work well). Replace the newsprint next to the paper every day until the paper is thoroughly dry. This can take several days. If the paper still buckles when it is taken out, dampen very lightly with a mister and dry again.



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