

Making Blueprint Paper Instructions

Materials Needed:

- Watercolour card, any size but you will be cutting it down to approximately A5
- A sponge or large paintbrush
- A container for mixing
- Conditions in which there is only artificial light
- Cardboard/ doubled over kitchen roll to line worktable with
- A beaker/test tube/measuring cylinder for measuring
- A scale
- Potassium ferricyanide
- Ammonium ferric citrate
- Rubber gloves/ protective gloves (chemicals can stain and we like to keep pretty hands!- on that note also wear older clothes)

Instructions: BEFORE STARTING MAKE SURE YOU ARE IN AN ENVIRONMENT WITH ONLY ARTIFICIAL LIGHT (ie no UV)

- Firstly, set up your table with your kitchen roll/cardboard protection, put on your gloves and make sure you are wearing old clothes.
- Then weigh 75g of ammonium ferric citrate into a beaker/ test tube. Then fill with water up to 100ml mark and stir/shake to mix.
- Then weigh 20g of Potassium ferricyanide into a beaker/test tube. Then fill with water up to 100ml mark and stir/shake to mix.
- Pour the two solutions into the container, they should mix naturally and be dark in colour.
- Make sure your watercolour card is cut to roughly size A5
- Dip your sponge/brush into the mixture and proceed to paint the card with the chemical mixture. Try to paint upwards first, downwards second, then across right, then left, then both diagonals. This will maximize the solution that soaks into the paper fibers.
- Lay the paper out to dry in an artificial light only environment. This should not take too long.
- Repeat process until all blueprint paper made. The amount of chemicals described should be more than enough to create 2 pieces of blueprint paper per person for a class of thirty.
- Package in tinfoil to avoid sun exposure
- For best results the paper should be made less than 48 hours in advance of the class



