

Washing the Original Newspaper

Why do I want to wash my newspaper clippings? If the newspaper clipping is important to your heritage, washing can be one of the very best things you can do. Not only does it wash out the acid and give the paper a fresh start, but it also allows the fibers to expand and bond together to strengthen the paper. This is especially recommended for old newspapers that have been waiting to be preserved. But will washing the clippings turn them into papier mache? No! Washing really works. Proceed with confidence:

1. Cut and trim your newspaper clipping to a size that will fit in a 9" x 13" x 3" glass dish. It won't hurt to cut the clipping in sections to fit the dish because it will be put on a scrapbook page anyway.
2. Pour distilled water into the dish to a level of about one inch.
3. Immerse the clipping in the water and let it soak for at least 20 minutes. If the water turns yellow, repeat the procedure.
4. Prepare a clean, flat surface such as your kitchen counter top (it cannot be wood), and carefully lay the wet newspaper clipping flat. It will take about an hour to dry. If the temperature is around 70 degrees the article will dry flatter. A hot day will cause the edges to curl, but once you put it in your scrapbook, it will flatten again.
5. Use a deacidification spray to put a protective buffering on the clipping.
6. Place the clipping attractively on your scrapbook page.

Spraying the Original Newspaper

What if you need to preserve a whole page or section of newspaper? The process of washing a whole page or section of newspaper is difficult and impractical. Instead, use a spray especially made for deacidification. It is non-toxic, non-hazardous, non-flammable and odor free. The directions are on bottle. These are the steps:

1. Lay out tissue paper so you have a clean surface.
2. Place the newspaper out flat on the tissue.
3. Using a deacidification spray, hold the container about six inches away from the newspaper, and spray a light, even application, from left to right.
4. Now repeat this process on the other side of the newspaper.
5. It is important to let the newspaper dry thoroughly before you mount it.

NOTE: A prominent conservator did a 20 -year study on paper preservation and results showed that papers that have been washed and dried before being sprayed are the best preserved.

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Scrapbooking with Newspapers[©]

*A Guide to the Safe Use of
Newspaper in Your Scrapbooks*

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Members & supporters of the:
Scrapbook Preservation Society
www.scrapbookpreservationsociety.com



Introduction

Welcome to the world of scrapbooking with newspapers. Even though it's been done since the birth of the newspaper, it has never really been popular – until now! In the past, scrapbookers have tried to minimize the usage of original newsprint in scrapbooks. Why? Because of the acid and lignin content in the paper, both of which are harmful to photos and precious documents. But now, scrapping with newsprint is popular. It can be done the easiest way possible with your favorite scrapbook.

Along with the satisfaction you will derive from its preservation, the treasure you create will endure for future generations. Someone in the future will consider your scrapbook a goldmine.

Safe newspaper scrapbooking is now possible with the proper methods and materials. Use only a quality album made of acid-free paper and polypropylene sheet protectors that will help to preserve your clippings for many years. The following step-by-step directions will help you with the simple process of newspaper scrapbooking.

*Warning: Newspaper scrapbooking may become addictive.

Clip & Keep From Personal Experience

When I was a child in the 1950's, I only saw a newspaper once a week. It was very exciting for me to read about and see photos of the events going on all over the world. During that time, the Queen of England was crowned, Sputnik was launched, and Elvis joined the army and got a haircut. I clipped these articles, and many more, and stuck them in an envelope inside my school binder. Several years ago, when I rediscovered my collection, I realized that I had a fascinating, historical treasure. Of course, the technology for preserving newspaper clippings was not available, so my clippings had yellowed and become brittle. Since then, I have scrapbooked my clippings following the techniques discussed in this brochure, and now have a very special book.

By Al Thelin

How to Scrapbook Newspapers

The possibilities in scrapbooking with newspapers are endless. At your local scrapbook store check out the variety of decorative papers and embellishments that are available. Proceed using these tips:

1. When choosing glue:

Always use water-soluble glue. (If you ever have to remove the clipping, just wash it again.)

The glue should have little or no smell. (Odors signal the presence of bad chemicals.)

Use solid glue sticks rather than liquid glues. (Liquid glues leave indentations in the paper.)

2. Daub just enough glue on the corners of the clipping to make it stick. Never smear glue on the entire back of the clipping.
3. When adding decorations and embellishments to your scrapbook page, use the same glue or a safe scrapbook tape. Never use tapes on newspaper clippings.
4. It's ok to cut the clipping apart and arrange it to fit your scrapbook page. Always include the newspaper date, heading and the entire article, even if it is on another page. Often, the article is continued in various places throughout the newspaper, even on the reverse side. This is a good time to use the copy method.

Copying the Original Newsprint

Why do you want to copy a newspaper clipping? Newsprint is not only very acidic, but contains a nother culprit called lignin. Acid causes the paper to disintegrate, and lignin causes the paper to turn yellow or brown. If you want the content of the newspaper clipping to last, copy it on acid-free, lignin-free paper.

1. Call a local copy center and ask the manager two questions:

Does the copy center use acid-free paper? (It is very important to scrap on acid-free paper.)

Do the copy machines have powdered toners? (For a permanent copy, the toner needs to be dry powder.)

2. At the copy center:

You can copy your newspaper clippings on a regular copy machine for black and white copies, or on a color copy machine that not only gives colors but also halftones. When you copy photos, you will be happier with the results if you use the color copy machine. It creates a copy that so closely resembles the original, it's hard to tell them apart. You can reduce or enlarge your clippings to the size that will best fit your scrapbook page. To add variety, enlarge your headlines and photos.

3. Then take the copy, cut it out and attach to your scrapbook page.