Off-grid Project: DIY Burnable Bricks & Logs Out of Paper

The ability to make long burning fire logs or fire bricks could be a life saver during and after a major crisis. The time to learn how to make, use, and store them is now, before any major crisis starts.

Right now, devices used to make fire bricks and logs are as close as your favorite hardware store; but in a time after a major crisis there will be no place to buy them.

Fortunately, you can use simple materials from around the house, the yard, or even a junk pile to make a fire log or fire brick maker.

How to Make Fire Logs

Materials needed

- 3/4” to 1” diameter dowel rod about 24” long
- Newspapers
- 5 gal bucket and water to soak the paper in.

How to make fire logs

For soaking the paper, place the newspaper in the buckets still folded into sections.

Fill the buckets with water, and let soak 1 to 2 hours, then prepare for rolling the logs.

Standing at a sink or other water proof surface, take the first wet section of the newspaper out of the bucket.

Place the dowel rod about 1 inch down from the top of the wet paper and begin to roll the dowel rod down the newspaper.

Start the paper near one end of the dowel so that it is easier to push off once you are done rolling paper. As you roll the newspaper squeeze out excess water.

After you have rolled up 2-3 inches of the wet paper, shape and compress the log with your hands to get more excess water out. Pull the dowel rod out of the freshly made paper fire log.

Air drying the newspaper fire logs

The completed fire logs must be completely dry before burning.

- Store logs in a shed or other covered area where the temperature and breeze can air dry them.
- If you do not have a shed, stack the wet logs on a platform, old pallets, or anything else that will keep the wet logs off the ground.
- Cover with a tarp to keep the logs from getting wet due to weather conditions.
- It will take at least a week for the logs to dry.

How to Make Fire Bricks

Materials and tools needed:

- Three 5gal. Buckets. (One bucket will have holes cut or drilled into it to make a sieve, one to be cut down to make a press, and the last bucket to be used as the outer water holding bucket.
- 1 drill to cut the holes in the bucket.
- 1 hand saw to make the water press.
- 1 machete to cut up the large fire brick into smaller ones.
- Old mail, newspapers, dead leaves, dead brush, tree clippings, paper towels and old paper rollers, paper plates, napkins, beer boxes /soda boxes, egg cartons, wood chips/saw dust, or any other bio mass that can be burned.

- Two 2”x4”X 3′ long for drainage boards (if you are planing to reuse the water).

Put the sieve 5 gal. bucket inside the other normal 5 gal. bucket. Fill these buckets 3/4 full of water. Rip or break up all of the fire brick materials into small pieces. Throw them in the water bucket to soak for about a day or until the paper is mushy.

Pull the sieve bucket out of the water bucket. Put the two 2”x4”s over the water bucket and place the sieve bucket on top of the boards to drain (if you are planing to reuse some of the water). If not stand up the sieve bucket and just let it drain out.

To remove more water and to compress the contents of the sieve bucket put the bucket press in the sieve and stand on top of it. When as much water as possible has been presses out of the sieve bucket. it is time to remove the fire brick from the sieve bucket.

To remove the fire brick, turn the sieve bucket upside down and tap on the bottom. The fire brick will fall out.

Dry bricks the same way as paper logs. To speed up drying, cut the bricks into pizza wedge shapes with the machete.

How to Make a Small Fire Brick Using Bread or Pound Cake Pans

Poke holes in a pound cake pan to make a sieve (they cost $1.00 in Dollar Tree). Make sure you poke holes from the inside of the pan outward so that paper does not snag on the metal later on.

Tear paper into strips and let them soaks in a bucket of water for 2 – 3 days. Take paper strips out of the water and place them into the sieve pound cake pan.

Use a brick or some other heavy object to assist you when pushing downward to push out as much water as possible out of the sieve pan. You can also gain additional leverage by placing a second pound cake tin on top of the paper and pushing with the brick on that. Keep adding paper and pressing until the pan is full.

Turn the sieve pan upside down and tap on the bottom of the sieve pan to release the paper brick. Let small bricks dry in the same way as paper logs and larger bricks.

In the time after a major crisis good safe burnable fire wood

will be in short supply. Making your own fire logs and fire bricks from old paper products, dried leaves or other burnables will be a lifesaver.

Why freeze or starve to death when making fuel from paper can be achieved by even a beginner prepper?

How to make your own energy Watch the video ▶

*This article has been written by **Fred Tyrell** for Survivopedia.*