

# How to Make your Own Custom Paper Straws

by NATASHA on OCTOBER 2, 2014

Decorative paper straws are too cute! Unfortunately, a lot of times they're literally too cute, plus they can be too expensive if you don't buy them in bulk. What do you do if you want just a few paper straws or something that isn't stripes, chevrons, or polka dot? Make your own, of course!



## Supplies for DIY Paper Straws

- Scrapbook paper (1 12"x12" sheet should make 8 straws)
- A paper cutter
- Non-toxic white glue
- 1/4" wood dowel
- Scissors
- Paraffin wax
- A tall glass container you don't mind filling with wax
- A cooking pot
- Paper towels

## How to Make Paper Straws

1. Cut a 12" section of dowel with a handsaw, hedge trimming shears, or tough scissors.

2. Cut your paper into 1.5" strips.

3. Working with one strip of paper at a time, lay a thin bead of glue about 1/4" inch in along one long edge on the "wrong" side of the paper. This will be the inside of the straw.



Adapted from <http://www.natashalh.com/how-to-make-your-own-custom-paper-straws-great-for-diy-weddings-and-holidays/>

4. Place one end of your dowel at an angle across one end of your paper opposite from the glue, as shown. You can experiment with what angle ultimately works best for you, but an approximate 45 degrees seems to work well. Begin rolling the paper, using the dowel as your guide.



5. Continue rolling the paper. It should stay at an angle so that each wrap overlaps with the wrap before it. Make sure the roll is snug, but making it extremely tight will make the straw difficult to remove from the dowel later!



6. When you reach the end, you may need to add an extra dab of glue to the final tab. Press the end tab down, wipe up any excess glue along the straw with a paper towel, and hold the end in place for a few seconds until the glue starts to bond.



7. After you're done rolling all your straws, it's best to let them dry fully (e.g. overnight) before cutting or coating them.

8. Trim your straw to your preferred size.



9. Break up chunks of your wax and put them in your glass vessel.

10. Place your jar of wax in a cooking pot and pour water into the pot until it is almost full or the water comes most of the way up the jar.

11. Heat the pot over low to medium-low heat until the wax melts. This will take several minutes, especially because you need to turn down the heat if the water tries to simmer.



12. Working with one straw at a time, dip one end into the wax and then lift it out. Let a little wax drip back into the container and then gently wipe the excess off with a paper towel. Repeat with the other side of the straw.

13. Continue dunking your straws in the melted wax until you're finished.

14. Use your cool new straws!

