

# 美濃手漉き和紙

## How "MINO WASHI", Japanese traditional paper is made?

~Environmentally sustainable process of making hand made organic natural paper~

Paper making in Japan dates back 1300 years.

Mino Washi having a long history starting in the Nara Period can be considered important Japanese culture.



### 1) 刈取り: reaping

Harvested in Gifu prefecture, Japan where rich nature.

Raw materials used include Kozo, Mitsumata, Gampi. Kozo is a mulberry tree of Moraceae family; it grows to a height of two meters in a year. Bark is stripped from the cut trees and sent to papermaking sites.



### 6) 叩解: beating

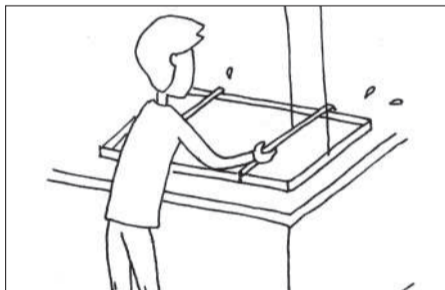
Pound with wooden hammer to make the fiber soft and strong.

The fiber is beaten into small particles with a wooden hammer. This process called "Koukai" or beating. Through beating, you'll see how the fiber length is retained. It takes ten minutes to complete the beating of a ball of fiber. The long length of the fiber is one of the characteristics of "Washi".



### 2) 皮剥ぎ: barking

Remove the bark from organic plants like KOZO.



### 7) 紙漉き: scooping

Pack the fiber in the tray by shaking them side to side and front and back by making it equal.

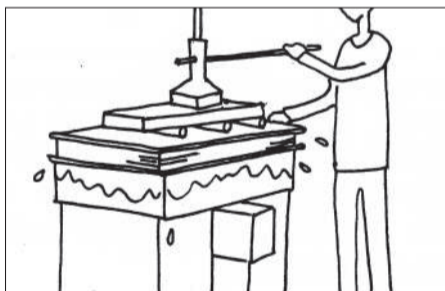
Now they are scooping the solution with "Sukote" or mould and working the mould back and forth, from side to side in pure water. Through this labor, fiber gets entangled to shape a sheet. This process is called "Kamisuki".



### 3) 晒し: soaking

Expose the bark in pure water.

The raw material is submerged in water or a shallow stream of a river for one or two days. Then, it becomes soft, and water soluble impurities are washed off. This process is called "Mizuzuke" or "Kawazarashi" or soaking. Then it is dried in the sun for a day.



### 8) 压榨: compression

Gently squeezing out water.

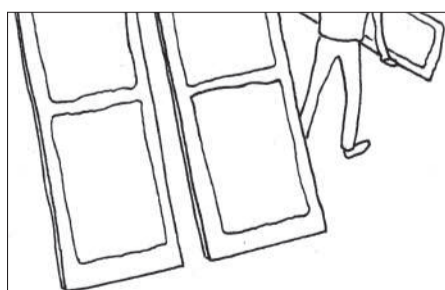
The pack is put on a press to drain water completely. This compressing is called "Oshiba". Water is squeezed slowly. It takes a whole day to complete the draining. 35% or 40% of the water contained in the sheets is squeezed out.



### 4) 煮熟: boiling ripening

Soften the bark by boiling it in a big pot.

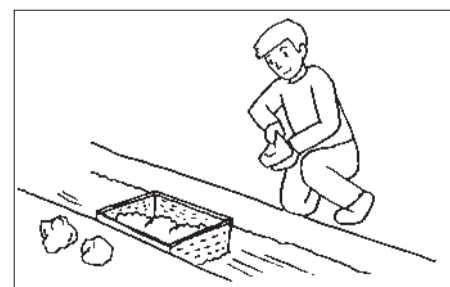
The raw material is cooked with soda ash for a few hours until only fiber remains. This is called "Shajuku" or cooking.



### 9) 天日乾燥: drying under the sun

Whiteness of Washi is born from drying under the natural sun light.

The sheets are separated from the board one by one and are attached one the drying surface in the sun, with the help of a brush to prevent creasing.



### 5) ちり取り: picking out dust

Carefully take the dusts off the bark (fiber) under pure water.

However even a "Shajuku", foreign particles still remain in the fibers. So it is carefully washed in water, the process called "Akunuki" or washing, and foreign particles are removed by hand.