



Washi-making Experiences Available

Advanced reservations required.
Please contact by phone or email.

Contact us

0269 82 4151
tesuki@kamisukiya.com

Washi-making

- Post cards (3) ¥1,000
- Business cards (5) ¥1,000
- A4 size (1) ¥1,000
- 24x28cm (1) ¥1,000

Fan (1) ¥1,200

Kaleidoscope (1) ¥1,400

Clock (1) ¥2,500

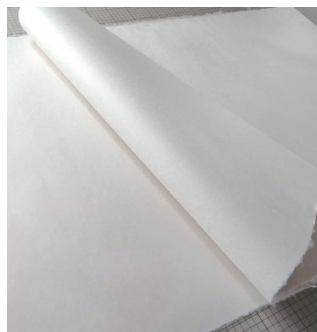
Table light (1) ¥2,500

We offer various programs to experience and learn more about washi, for artists, students and anyone interested in this important part of Japanese culture.

Feel free to contact with questions, concerns or comments, in English or Japanese.



Kami-suki (Papermaking)



Uchiyama-gami
(Snow bleached paper)

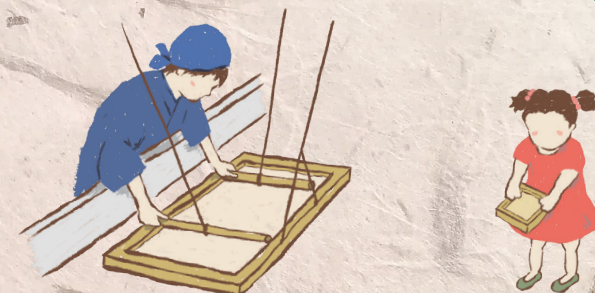


Yuki-sarashi
(Snow bleach)



kamisukiya.com

English
英語版



ARTISANAL
WASHI

UCHIYAMA-GAMI

TRADITIONAL PAPERMAKING STUDIO
WORKSHOP
GALLERY



Free
Admission

Phone 0269 82 4151

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URL kamisukiya.com

1143-3, Hotaka, Kijimadaira, Nagano, 389-2301

Hours of Operation 11:00 - 17:00

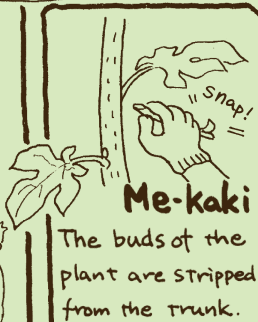
Closed Wednesday and Dec.28th to Jan.5th

How to make the Uchiyama-Gami



The Kozo Tree

This raw material for washi belongs to the mulberry family.



Me-kaki

The buds of the plant are stripped from the trunk.

Harvesting

In late autumn, the kozo is cut at the base.



Kazu-hagi

The kozo trunks are steamed for one hour, and then the bark is peeled off while they're still hot.



Shikawa Tori

Using a tool called an "okaki," the black parts of the bark are scraped away.



Yuki-Sarashi (snow breaching)

The cleaned bark is now seaweed-green. It is spread out on top of deep snow, where the sun's UV rays will turn it white in a few days.



Sha-juku

The white bark is boiled for four hours in an alkaline solution.

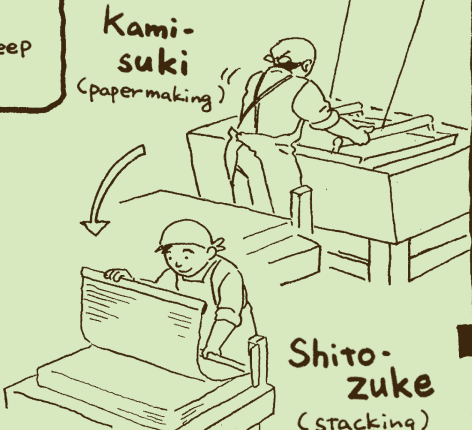
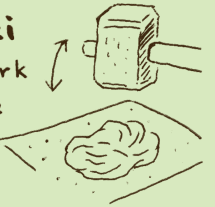


Fushihiroi

Stains and dust are removed from the bark and it is rinsed in clean water.

Kazu-haraki

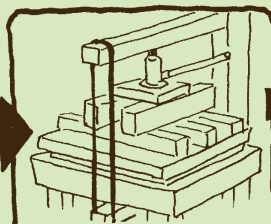
The softened bark is laid on a stone table and pounded with a wooden mallet.



Kami-suki (papermaking)

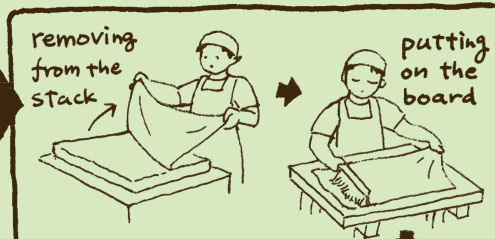
Shito-zuke (stacking)

The bark is mixed with water and a glue called "neri" in a basin. The basin contains a screen that is lifted out of the mixture. This step is repeated several times, making sure the layers are even.



Kami-shibori

Many wet, finished papers are stacked and then pressed tightly with a jack.



Kami-hoshi

The squeezed papers are removed from the stack, one by one. Each sheet is hung on a board and dried in the sunlight.



What is 'Washi'?

'Washi' means "traditional Japanese paper".

Washi is made from the bark of three different plants; the 'kozo' (paper mulberry), the 'mitsumata' (oriental paperbush), and the 'gampi'. The bark of these plants contains long, strong and shiny fibers. Blending these fibers makes washi that is durable, long-lasting and beautiful.

Now, in Japan, there are about 200 places making traditional paper, and each facility produces washi that has many unique and particular qualities.

The History of Washi

About 2200 years ago, paper was first created in China. As Buddhism began to make inroads into Japan from China, washi and the papermaking techniques followed soon after. Many scrolls of Buddhist scripture were imported from China. In order to spread Buddhism throughout Japan, the Japanese government instructed craftspeople to create much more paper so the scriptures could be copied and shared throughout the land.

Over many centuries, Japanese craftspeople developed and refined this method of papermaking.

With the arrival of the Edo-era came numerous industries, both industrial and artisanal, including a variety of handicrafts. The demand for washi increased greatly.

In the Uchiyama area northern Nagano Prefecture, people often found themselves homebound by heavy snowfall during the winter. However, they discovered they could make paper inside their homes during these times. The snow had a benefit, as well. By laying the plant fibers atop the snow, they could bleach them, using only the sun's ultraviolet rays.

This technique, called 'yuki-sarashi', has made Uchiyama-gami popular throughout Japan.