

Making Izumo Washi

1. Cleaning



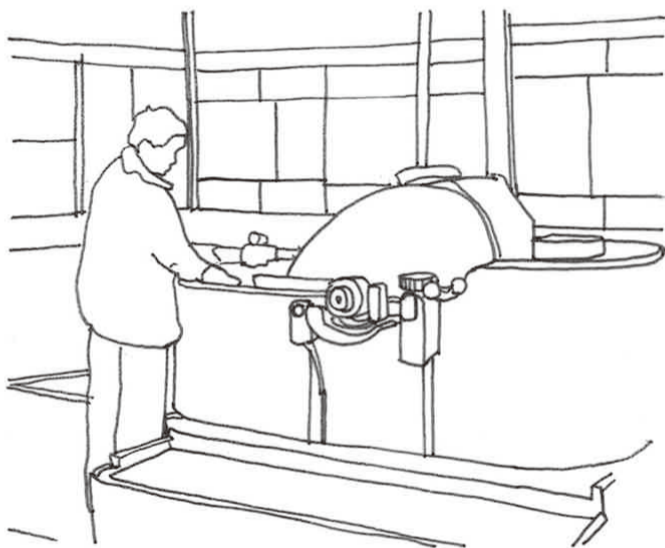
Surface grit is removed from the inner layer of white bark, or bast (*shirokawa*), of a plant, such as *gampi* or paper mulberry (*kōzo*), after it is softened in water overnight.

2. Boiling



The bast fiber is placed in a pot and boiled with soda ash until it is soft.

3. Pulping



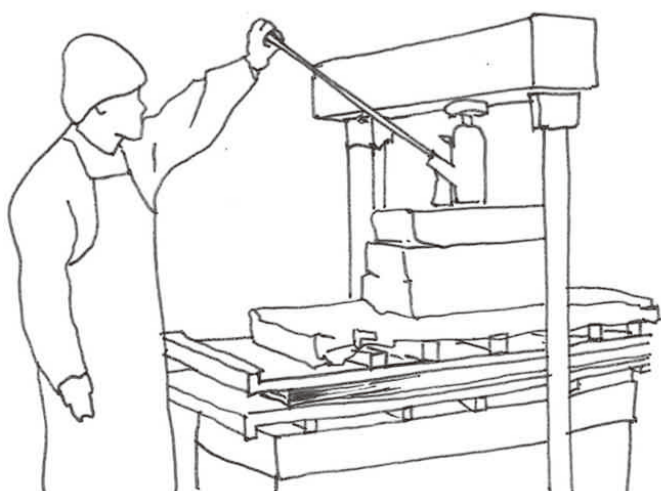
The bast fiber is washed and beaten to produce pulp.

4. Papermaking



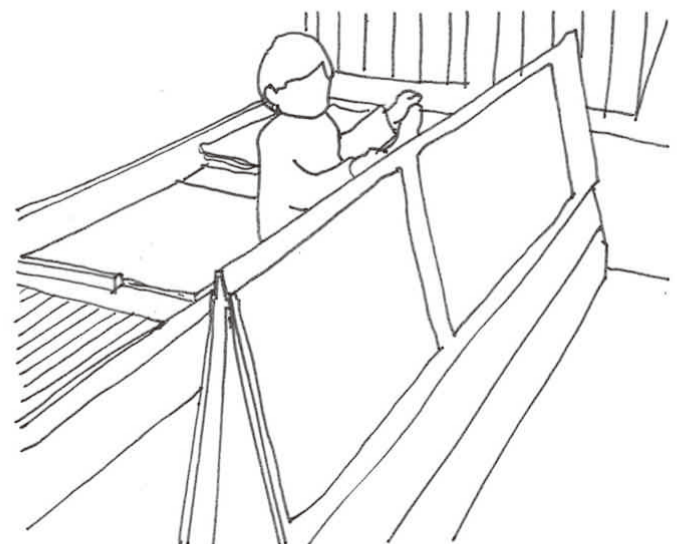
The beaten pulp is mixed with water and a starchy substance (*neri*) extracted from the *tororo aoi* plant. It is then spread out and made into paper using a mat (*su*) and a wooden frame (*keta*).

5. Pressing



Water is squeezed out of the soggy paper using a press.

6. Drying



The moist paper is stretched out to dry on a steam-heated steel plate using a brush.

