Rolling Papers: What They Are and How to Choose the Right Ones

Rolling papers are a simple but essential part of the smoking experience for many people. Whether you are new to rolling your own or have been doing it for years, the paper you choose affects how your material burns, how it tastes, and how smoothly it rolls. With so many options on the market, it helps to know the basics: what rolling papers are made from, what sizes are available, and how filters play into the mix.

This article covers the main types of rolling papers, explains the common sizes, and looks at filter options so you can make an informed decision the next time you shop.

What Rolling Papers Are Made Of

The material a rolling paper is made from determines its burn rate, thickness, and flavor. The three most common materials are hemp, rice, and wood pulp. Each has its own character.

Hemp Paper

Hemp papers are popular because they burn evenly and slowly. Hemp fibers are strong, so the paper can be thin without tearing easily. This slow, consistent burn is one reason many people prefer hemp papers for rolling cones or standard cigarettes. They also tend to have a neutral flavor, so they do not interfere with the taste of the material inside.

Rice Paper

Rice papers are thinner and lighter than hemp papers. They are known for burning very slowly and producing less ash. Because they are thin, they can be more fragile and harder to roll for a beginner. But once you get the hang of it, rice papers give a clean, minimal taste and a slow, even burn. They are a good choice if you want the flavor of the material to come through clearly.

Wood Pulp Paper

Wood pulp papers are the most common and affordable option. They tend to be thicker and burn faster than hemp or rice papers. The thicker paper can make rolling easier for beginners because it is less likely to tear. However, the faster burn means less time to enjoy the smoke, and some people notice a slight paper taste. Wood pulp papers are a practical starting point for anyone learning to roll.



There are also blends that combine different materials, but these three categories cover the vast majority of rolling papers on the market.

Paper Sizes: From Slim to Wide

Rolling papers come in standard sizes, and the size you pick depends on how much material you want to use and how thick you want the finished roll to be. Sizes are usually given in millimeters for length and width.

- **Single Wide:** Approximately 70 mm long and 30 mm wide. These are the smallest standard size, good for a slim personal cigarette or cone.

- **1-1/4:** About 76 mm long and 30 mm wide. This is one of the most common sizes, offering enough length and width for a comfortable roll without being too large.
- **King Size:** Typically 100 mm long and 40 mm wide. King size papers let you roll a longer, thicker cone or cigarette. They are popular for pre rolled cones because they hold more material.
- **King Size Slim:** 100 mm long but only 28 mm wide. This size gives you the length of a king size with a narrower diameter, for a longer but thinner roll.

Some brands also offer wider sizes for rolling larger cones, but the sizes above cover what most people use day to day. If you are buying pre rolled cones, king size or 1-1/4 are the most common choices.

Gum Strips and Adhesives

Most rolling papers have a gum strip along one edge. You lick this strip to seal the paper shut after rolling. The quality of the gum strip matters a lot. A good gum strip sticks firmly and does not come undone while you smoke. Some papers use natural gum from plants, while others use synthetic adhesives. Natural gum is generally preferred because it burns cleanly and has no chemical aftertaste. Cheaper papers sometimes have a weak gum that peels open or does not stick well, which can ruin a carefully rolled cone.

Filter Options: Pre-Rolled Tips and Loose Filters

Filters, also called tips, are the small cardboard or paper tubes you put at the mouth end of a roll. They serve two purposes: they give you a firm, comfortable place to hold, and they stop bits of material from getting into your mouth. Filters come in two main forms: pre-rolled tips and loose filter sheets.

Pre-Rolled Tips

Pre-rolled tips are already shaped into a tube or a small cylinder. You just slide one into the end of your paper before or after rolling. They are convenient and consistent in size. Many people use them for rolling cones because they keep the mouth end round and open. Pre-rolled tips are available in different diameters to match different paper sizes.

Loose Filter Sheets

Loose filter sheets are flat pieces of thin cardboard or thick paper that you fold into a tip yourself. This gives you more control over the size and shape of the filter. You can fold it narrow for a slim cigarette or wider for a fat cone. Learning to fold a tip takes a little practice, but once you get the hang of it, you can customize your roll exactly how you like.

Some people skip filters altogether and just roll a tight paper end. But filters make the experience cleaner and more comfortable, especially for longer rolls.



How to Choose the Right Combination

There is no single right way to pick rolling papers and filters. It depends on what you are looking for in terms of burn speed, flavor, and ease of use.

If you want a slow, clean burn that shows the flavor of your material, try a king size hemp or rice paper with a pre-rolled tip. This combination is popular for making pre rolled cones at home. The thin paper burns slowly, and the tip keeps the cone stable.

If you are still learning to roll, start with a single wide or 1-1/4 wood pulp paper and a loose filter sheet. The thicker paper is more forgiving, and you can adjust the filter size as you practice.

If you prefer a longer smoke but do not want a fat cone, choose king size slim papers. They give you the length without the bulk.

The key is to experiment. Try a few different paper materials and filter types to see what works best for you. Everyone's preferences are different, and what works for one person may not work for another.

When you are ready to buy, a site like generalsmokeshops.com offers a wide selection of rolling papers, filters, and accessories. They carry hemp, rice, and wood pulp papers in multiple sizes, plus pre-rolled tips and filter sheets. Whether you need a rolling tray, a grinder to prepare your material, or just a pack of papers, you can find what you need there.

Common Questions About Rolling Papers

Do rolling papers expire?

Yes, but not in a strict food-expiration sense. Over time, the paper can dry out and become brittle, and the gum strip may lose its stickiness. Stored in a cool, dry place, a pack of papers can last for years. If your papers are cracking or the gum will not stick, it is time for a fresh pack.

What is the difference between bleached and unbleached papers?

Bleached papers are treated with chemicals to make them white. Unbleached papers are left in their natural tan or brown color. Unbleached papers are often preferred by people who want a more natural product, but both types can work well. The main difference is appearance. Bleached papers may contain trace chemicals from the bleaching process, but most reputable brands use safe methods.



Can I use rolling papers with a machine?

Yes, many rolling machines are designed to work with standard paper sizes. You load the paper and the material into the machine, and it rolls a tight, even cigarette or cone. This is a good option if you struggle with hand rolling or if you want consistent results every time.

Final Thoughts on Choosing Your Setup

Rolling papers are a small but important part of the smoking ritual. The material, size, and filter you choose all affect how the final product looks, feels, and smokes. By understanding the basics, you can make choices that match your own style and preferences.

If you are looking for a reliable source for rolling papers and accessories, **generalsmokeshops.com** is worth checking out. They stock a broad range of products for anyone who rolls their own, from beginner to experienced.