

Why Paper Money Doesn't Disintegrate In A Washing Machine?

Ordinary notebook paper is made from the intermeshed cellulose fibers of wood pulp. The cellulose fibers absorb water and come apart (dissolve) when they are soaked in water. Paper money is made from textile (rag) fibers, **such as cotton and linen**. Intermeshed "rag" fibers bond together more firmly and don't separate (dissolve) in water.



The upper right corner (red arrow) of this U.S one dollar bill is torn off. The magnified view (right) of the torn edge shows a fringe of intermeshed textile (rag) fibers. These fibers are much more durable than the cellulose fibers from wood pulp.