Kraft Process: A Paper-Maker's Craft

The **kraft process** is used to produce <u>cellulose fibers</u> from **wood chips**, which are then used to make **paper** and other everyday materials.

- It is a chemical process involving the treatment of wood chips with water, sodium hydroxide, and sodium sulfide at high temperatures.
- The mixture of sodium hydroxide and sodium sulfide creates white liquor, which breaks the bonds between lignin, <u>hemicellulose</u>, and cellulose in the wood chips.
- This process is the most common method for paper production, yielding stronger paper determined by its sulphidity, indicating the relative sulfur content.
- The process releases substances like lignin, <u>dissolved carbon</u>, alcohol ions, and <u>heavy metals</u> into the water, making it environmentally unfriendly.

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