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CORK GUIDE A-Z

01 WHAT IS CORK

Cork is a natural fibre from the cork oak tree, considered to be one of the most sustainable forestry practices on the planet. These trees grow mainly in South East Europe and North African countries. Cork oaks are never cut down and usually live to be 100 to 300 years old. In addition, cork oak forests are a valuable habitat for rare plants and animals, and a livelihood for countless people.

02 WHAT IS CORK FABRIC

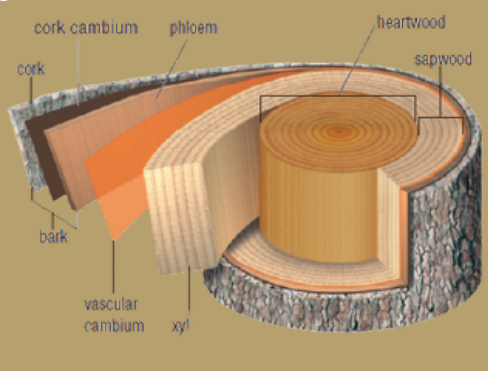
Cork fabrics, also known as cork leather, are made from bark taken from the cork tree. Most of the products are handmade. These thin cork sheets are laminated to the backing using specialist techniques. Cork fabric is the perfect alternative to animal leather.

03 HOW TO PRODUCE CORK

Cork is taken from cork oak, the bark of which is harvested every ten years. Harvesting the cork is done by hand, without cutting down or damaging the tree. Only the outer layer of bark is removed and the trees will continue to survive and grow. The life span of a cork oak tree is approximately 300 years and a cork oak tree can be safely harvested up to 20 times during its life cycle, making cork a truly inexhaustible natural resource.

04 PROPERTIES OF CORK

- Thermal insulation
- Acoustic insulation
- Abrasion resistant
- Non-toxic
- Antibacterial and hypoallergenic
- Elasticated
- Compressible
- Viscoelastic
- Ultra low permeability to gases and liquids
- Recyclable
- Biodegradable

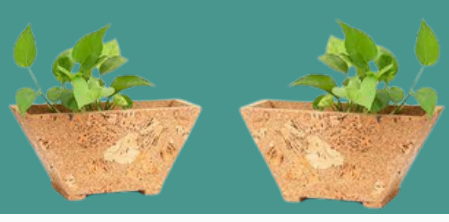


05 APPLICATIONS OF CORK

- Wine stoppers
- Cork fabrics
- Fashion luggage
- Shoe materials
- Sports products
- Soundproof mats
- Clothes
- Furniture
- Thermal insulation
- Industrial product components
- Automotive interiors
- Floor and wall coverings
- Darts, kayaks and surfboards
- Fishing buoys

06 IS CORK ECO-FRIENDLY?

- Cork oak forests absorb 14 million tonnes of CO_2 per year.
- Each cork absorbs an average of 112 grams of carbon dioxide.
- Each tonne of cork absorbs 1.83 tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- In the process of converting one Kilogram of cork, 50 Kg of CO_2 is absorbed from the atmosphere.
- For every tonne of cork produced, cork oak forests can sequester up to 73 tonnes of CO_2.
- Cork oaks in Portugal alone absorb 4.8 million tonnes of CO_2 per year, which is equivalent to the emissions of every 830,000 passenger cars in a year.



07 IS CORK DURABLE?

The unique honeycomb structure of cork makes it resistant to wear and tear, 60% of the air bubbles are air, and cork is highly elastic. The cork surface forms a wax resin which protects the surface structure very well. Cork wax grease is perfect for waterproofing your bags, and thanks to its elasticity and resilience, cork can withstand a lot of weight without warping.

08 HOW TO MAINTAIN CORK

Being a very durable natural material, cork can be washed by hand or in the washing machine, or it can be put in the dryer. There are no special washing contraindications for cork, which can also be brushed hard to remove the most harmful stains.