

I'm natural

I'm forgiving

I'm beautiful

I add warmth

I'm flexible

I wear well

C O R K

Walk on me

Live with me

Love me

Cork.

What A Beautiful Idea.



ork. Seen In All The Best Places.

In the midst of an all too synthetic age, it's becoming clear that natural and sustainable products are undergoing a remarkable resurgence. Indeed, if you are a top designer or architect whispering one word in the ear of a young graduate, it might well be 'Cork!' After all, cork is a natural — as beautiful as it is intelligent, and as exciting to look at as it is satisfying to live with. And cork is 'green'!

Consider, for example, the stunning residential high-rise in Manhattan called the Solaire. Recently named to the American Institute of Architects' annual Top 10 list of 'green' buildings, it is the only residential building to ever be on the list. One of the reasons? A stunning lobby that seems endlessly sheathed in rich mahogany, but turns out to be made with 100 percent natural cork — sustainable, renewable, biodegradable, and recyclable.

Take the time to learn more about cork. It's a beautifully smart idea that's showing up in all the best places.



Cork. It Makes More Than Champagne Pop!

Nothing quite makes the eyes of admirers pop like the beauty and drama of interiors designed with natural cork. Having a floor dream in color? Cork can make it real. All the colors of the rainbow and even a few Mother Nature never heard of — that's your range of possibilities when you design with cork. In fact, since cork can accommodate or match virtually any tint or shade you can imagine, the color possibilities are almost endless.



Did you know: Cork gives you a design versatility you'll love, plus it's 100 percent natural.



D

esign Your Own Design. You Can Do It With Cork.

Squares, diamonds, stars, circles, and simply whatever. If you can imagine it or design it, you can bring it to life with cork flooring. By combining cork's range of colors with its unique flexibility in cut, shape, and ease of installation, cork pretty much adds up to a designer's dream.





Did you know: Cork is a 'superhero'—anti-microbial, non-toxic, resistant to molds, mildews, and pests!





Did you know: SHHH! The floors of the Library of Congress are laid with real cork. It's a natural sound absorber.

Thinking Hardwood Floors? Move Up To A Higher Level.

Cork floors look just as beautiful but have a much wider range of design possibilities, including 'wide-plank' shapes and cuts, and an entire rainbow of colors. Plus, they are durable but more forgiving on your feet (as well as falling children and other precious objects!) while providing better insulation and superior absorption of sound and vibration. You have to 'not hear it' to really appreciate it. And, cork is all but imper-

meable to dampness, will not rot, and can be installed within 100 percent 'green' specs. Did we mention that cork is sustainable and renewable? Try and ask that of other flooring choices.

Cork underlayment complements other flooring options, helping to insulate against noise, vibration and temperatures.



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ork. More Than Just A Pretty Face.

Cork is more than just gorgeous on the outside — it works beautifully even when you can't see it! And it all begins with Nature. Cork's honeycomb-like cellular structure is a natural property that no synthetic product can quite duplicate. These unique cells — naturally airtight and watertight — result in cork's low specific weight, while allowing cork to lengthen easily under stress and actually soften when compressed.

These are just a few of the characteristics that make cork an exceptional material for designers, architects and homeowners; as do other cork benefits like superior sound and vibration dampening. For example, cork is particularly well suited as (in addition to a smartly decorative floor surface) underlayment for all floor surfaces and as an unbeatable primary insulation material. In fact, cork

could rightly be called The Great Insulator.

Why? Let's begin by simply pointing out that nothing can quite match its unique ability to insulate against heat and cold, as well as vibration and electricity. And cork performs very favorably on the key dimension of thermal insulation combined with compressive strength, making it ideal for both residential and commercial applications.

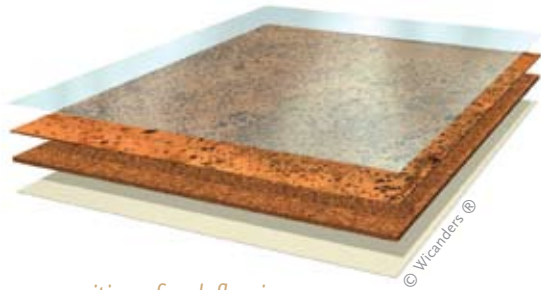


*Radial section of cork cells.
Naturally airtight and
watertight.*

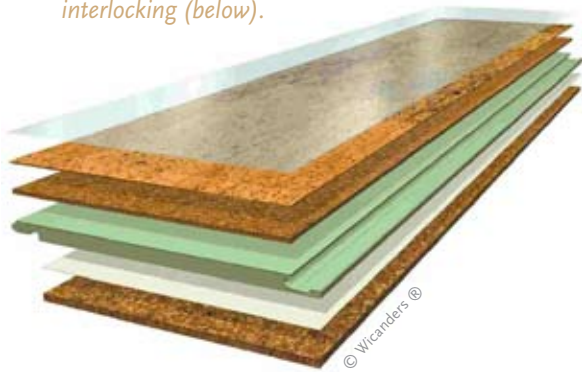
Yet, unlike alternative materials, cork is 'green' — 100 percent natural, sustainable, biodegradable and recyclable. What's more, it's also water, insect, and dent resistant, as well as anti-allergenic; and under fire conditions, cork won't release toxic substances as might occur with materials like polyurethane and polystyrene.

And you'll be happy to know that cork is also flexible and practical enough to use in just about any insulation design project. Available in shaped sizes and

forms as well as loose fills, agglomerated 'corkboard' insulation is an absolute dream for architects, designers, builders and DIY use. And for the 'green' icing on the cake, you should know that corkboard insulation is typically made from the reprocessed byproducts and residue of other natural cork processes.



The composition of cork flooring is comprised of 100 percent natural materials. It is available in a variety of forms such as standard floor tile (above) and interlocking (below).



Did you know: Cork is used in aerospace applications because of its thermal properties, slow burn rate, and shock absorption capacity.





Cork. It's A Natural.

If you appreciate the importance of environmental concerns, isn't it rewarding to know that cork is 100 percent

natural, biodegradable and recyclable? But just as importantly, cork is a totally sustainable and renewable resource — made from the bark, not the trunk of the Cork Oak Tree (*Quercus suber*). In the countries of origin, like Portugal and the Western Mediterranean, cork oak forests are protected natural treasures, so the harvesting of the cork bark is strictly regulated, does not harm the tree, and actually helps support and extend the natural habitat, vegetative growth, and wildlife.

Cork is Green.

When used as a building design product it can contrib-

ute to both commercial and residential certification under the LEED standards (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design/U.S. Green Building Council).

And it's no wonder, since cork is nothing less than a marvel of nature — something no synthetic product



The bark used to make cork is only harvested once every nine years, the tree is not harmed, and the quality actually improves with every harvest.

or engineering can ever even dream to equal. It's water resistant, insect resistant, anti-allergenic, fire retardant, amazingly durable and dent resistant, thermally and acoustically insulating, and noticeably more comfortable underfoot!

The bottom line is that natural cork products deliver what you love

best about life. Naturally.

Cork. What A Beautiful Idea.

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