about cork composites

AMORIM

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Amorim Cork Composites supplies state-of-the-art solutions for the transport sector, breakthrough applications for the construction industry, advanced components for spacecraft and an unrivalled portfolio of design products for the home and office, amongst many other applications.

Incorporating cutting edge technology and benefiting from unique knowledge of the raw material, the company researches and develops cork composites for some of the world's most demanding sectors.

corticeira amorim

The Composite Cork Business Unit is Corticeira Amorim's most technologically advanced area. Internationally renowned for its R&D credentials, the company's pioneering spirit – coupled with cork's unique properties – has made it possible to deliver a remarkable range of high-performance, state-of-the-art products; a veritable new universe in cork, which doesn't just meet current demands but also anticipates tomorrow's trends and markets.

Today – 145 years after being founded – Corticeira Amorim is a robust economic group with an international profile, and is the leader in the cork industry, selling 96% of its production to over 100 countries, outside Portugal.

cork

Cork, cortiça in Portuguese, is the outer bark of the cork oak tree – *Quercus Suber L.* – which has grown for millennia throughout the Mediterranean Region.

The life span of these exceptional trees is between 200 and 250 years. It takes 25 years before a cork oak tree can be harvested for the first time. After the first harvesting, cork oaks are stripped in nine year cycles, always between May and August, when the tree is at its most active phase of growth and is easier to strip. In a context of increasing concern for the environment, it is important to note that cork is the only tree whose bark can regenerate after each harvest – leaving the tree unharmed.

100% natural
Recyclable and usable
Lightweight
Compressible
Resilient
Shock absorbent
Stable
Thermal effective
Sound insulator
Temperature resistant
Moisture proof
Flexible
Soft touch
Warm feeling

reinventing how cork engages the world

Composite cork is made from granulated cork bound together using different binding agents or incorporating other components such as rubber, carbon fiber, plastic, thus obtaining a major diversity of products. Today, as a result of technological advances and an unparalleled investment in R&D and Innovation, these different materials leverage cork's unique properties, extending well beyond the current boundaries of this 100% natural material.

GARRETT MCNAMARA CORK SURFBOARD, BY MERCEDES-BENZ & AMORIM

SERPENTINE GALLERY PAVILION, BY HERZOG & DE MEURON AND AI WEIWEI

IN THE SPORTS ARENA, NIKE AND ADIDAS, AS WELL AS BIRKENSTOCK, HAVE ALREADY SURRENDERED TO CORK'S VERSATILITY.

"CORK IS NATURE'S FOAM, WITH A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF PROPERTIES." IN NASA TECHNICAL REPORTS

metamorphosis

Metamorphosis is the result of a R&D process concerning the potential of cork. The project has sparked innovative, creative and cutting-edge use of this raw material, thereby expanding its horizons. Pritzker prize winners, Álvaro Siza, Eduardo Souto Moura and Herzog & de Meuron joined the project, together with architects, Alejandro Aravena, Amanda Levete, Carrilho da Graça and Manuel Aires Mateus and three leading product designers – James Irvine, Jasper Morrison and Naoto Fukasawa.

CORK KIT, BY AMANDA LEVETE FOR THE METAMORPHOSIS PROJECT

certification

The Composite Cork Business Unit's products are certified by leading certification bodies in the fields of quality and the environment, including the FSC – Forest Stewardship Council and the PEFC – Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes.

SINNERLING COLLECTION BY STUDIOILSE FOR IKEA

reinventing the future with leading-edge cork solutions

Transportation

As a natural and lightweight material that has excellent insulation properties, cork fully complies with the challenges currently facing the transportation industry – bus, metro and train. Amorim's solutions explore these characteristics in order to create environmentally sustainable and innovative interior systems. Cork is applied as a core in structures with rigorous technical requirements such as floors, sidewalls, ceiling and body panels, and amongst a vast number of other possible components.

Cork is also being increasingly perceived by the automobile sector as a premium and added value solution.

Industry

This business segment is primarily driven by the continuous need to develop innovative, technical and environmentally friendly products and solutions for industrial customers who require lightweight, comfort and durable products offering excellent acoustic, thermal and damping performance. Our portfolio encompasses solutions that are applied in industries as diverse as Aerospace, Transmission & Distribution, Sealing, Footwear, Vibration Control and Core Materials.

Construction

Cork is increasingly applied in the building industry since it offers advantages in terms of construction quality, interior atmosphere and comfort. It also helps economise resources, both in the production process – since cork requires low energy consumption – and from the user perspective, since it is the only raw material that can guarantee an identical level of technical performance throughout the product's useful life. Our product range includes solutions for acoustic and thermal insulation, filling and absorption of expansions joints, coverings for internal and external walls/ceilings and high performance final flooring.

Consumer goods

Cork perfectly adapts to current design trends and combines well with other materials. A paradigm example is the MATERIA – Cork by Amorim collection, launched by Corticeira Amorim with the aim to raise the profile of cork and conquer new territories and audiences.
Our range also includes the Korko and Soul Mate brands which take advantage of cork's unique sensory properties and present products for the home and office.