



Nature at your feet



**CORK'S
NATURAL COMFORT
TO HAVE
TO HOLD
TO LAST**

CORK IS NATURE

MORE RENEWABLE

Cork comes from the bark of the cork oak tree. It's harvested by hand when the tree is 25 years old and occurs every 9 years from then on leaving the tree undamaged and able to regrow a new bark. Cork is ideal in terms of the ever increasing demand for conservation of natural resources. It has unique and incomparable qualities

which no ingenious human has yet copied or improved. It's made of 40 million cells per cm³ resembling a honeycomb structure which protects the tree from sharp weather temperature changes. Each cell functions as a miniature natural thermal insulator and also provides above average sound insulation and shock absorbing properties.

Cork is the bark of the cork oak tree, notable for being a renewable resource, with elasticity, resistance, low weight and impermeability to liquids and gases.



1 Hectares of cork oak forest in the Mediterranean area
2 Cork oak forest in Portugal
3 Storage of cork - rests for about a year before being used
4 Cork oak harvesting in Portugal



CORK IS SUSTAINABILITY

MORE FUTURE

The Montado area is considered a hotspot of biodiversity, as it is the habitat of a diverse range of animal species and plants. Regular extraction of cork is a fundamental contribution for environmental, economic and social sustainability of the rural areas and the Mediterranean region. Wicanders represents a unique balance between the creation of wealth and the protection of the environment. The cork industry is

remarkably sustainable; it extracts the cork cyclically from the trees without ever harming them, and turns it into high value-added products while promoting the economic and social sustainability of areas at risk of desertification. Wicanders products actively contribute to reduce global warming, not only through low emissions, but also due to cork's natural property of retaining CO₂.

- 1 Cork oak harvesting in Montado
- 2 Egret
- 3 Iberian Lynx
- 4 Wild Boar
- 5 Blue Tit
- 6 Fox
- 7 Salamander

CORK IS INNOVATION

MORE ADDED VALUE PRODUCTS

Byembracingecologicalandnatural materials more often, researchers, architects and designers have been rediscovering cork, coming up with great discoveries and new uses. It is increasingly common to find cork used in decorative and design items that enhance spaces, garments

A centuries-old material with unique properties is key in creating products with added value.

and goods that are shown on the runways, hi-tech accessories and even in aerospace, automobile and pharmaceutical industry. It’s being applied to face a variety of needs, due to its lightweight, insulation and shock absorbing properties.



- 1 Interior of the new Mercedes F700 concept car
- 2 Cabin LIFE, winner of The Cristal Cabin Award
- 3 Tea set by Raquel Castro for Soul Mate collection
- 4 Nelo Kayak winner at the Beijing Olympics
- 5 Cork chaise longue by Daniel Michalik
- 6 Ariane 5 rocket, Cork Thermal Protection System
- 7 Helix cork stopper by Amorim
- 8 Cork shoe by Nike Sportswear LeBron X



- 1 Bedroom with cork flooring
- 2 Ecorkhotel in Évora, with special MD façades - expanded cork boards
- 3 Quinta do Portal in Douro with special MD façades - expanded cork boards
- 4 Living room with cork wall covering
- 5 External thermal insulation composite system

CORK IS INNOVATION

MORE GREEN CONSTRUCTION

The use of cork in modern construction and decor has expanded worldwide following the latest technology, design and green building trends. Awareness of cork's acoustic, thermal and anti-vibration properties, followed by reduced costs in energy heating, have made it the ultimate insulator and wall or floor covering material.

The growing importance of natural and sustainable materials and the wide range of patterns, textures, colours and applications available, have awakened the interest of architects and designers that want to provide unique solutions with added value to their projects.

Cork has unique features that make it an excellent material to use in construction and decoration.

CORK IS COMFORT

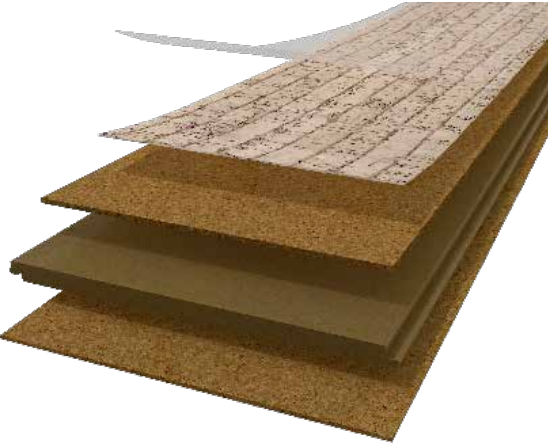
MORE THAN JUST A BEAUTIFUL FLOOR

Over the years, Wicanders has developed floor and wall coverings with exclusive properties due to its innovative Corktech technology. By using a unique engineered multi-layer structure, which combines state of the art technology with the exclusive natural properties of cork, a higher standard in flooring was achieved, providing the perfect match between beauty, comfort and durability.

Wicanders floors are available with different decorative materials protected by the upmost resistant finishings. The uniqueness of Wicanders was achieved by using a prime quality core layer of cork, which provides superior comfort, noise reduction and warmth. An integrated cork underlay reinforces thermal and acoustic properties, resulting in a silent environment and important energy cost savings.



- Protective wear layer
- Decorative material
- Agglomerated cork
Step sound reduction,
warmth & comfort
- High density fiberboard
- Insulating cork underlay
Impact sound reduction
& thermal reinforcement



+ SILENCE



+ WALKING COMFORT



+ NATURAL THERMAL INSULATION



+ BODY WELLNESS



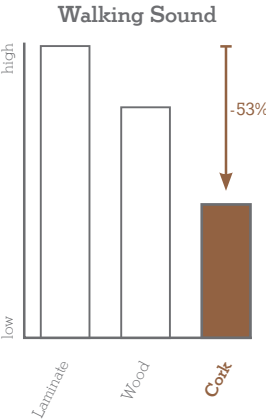
+ IMPACT RESISTANCE



+ SILENCE

Cork is an extremely efficient natural sound absorber because its cells work as an acoustic insulator. Wicanders cork floors can easily cut noise within a room (walking sound), and act as a noise buffer between the floor and the rooms underneath (impact sound), making it exceptionally efficient to use in residential or commercial spaces.

Comparing the walking sound between cork and laminate floors, tests confirm that cork floors have an exceptional result reducing the sound up to 53%. Wicanders products provide a peaceful and quiet environment with higher comfort and relaxation.

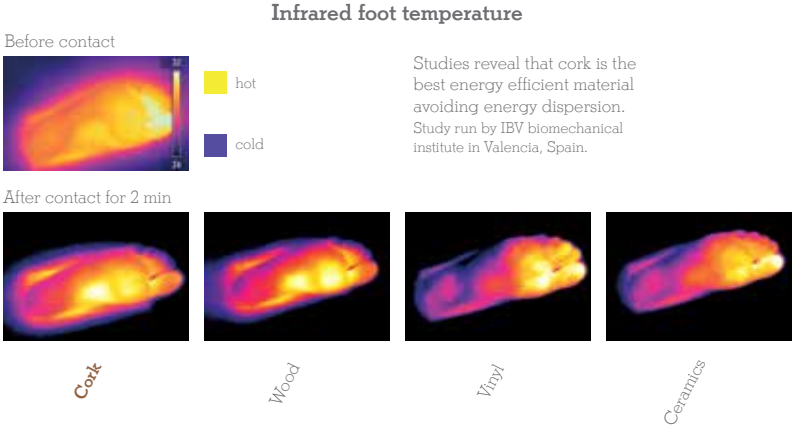


According to tests, the use of cork floors can reduce the walking sound up to 53%. Study run by Entwicklungs- und Prüflabor Holztechnologie gmbH (EPH) in Germany according to IHD-W 431.

+ NATURAL THERMAL INSULATION

The natural thermal insulation properties of cork make Wicanders floors very energy efficient providing a pleasant touch, even barefoot, and an optimal floor temperature all year round which contributes to an overall comfort. When testing foot temperature in contact with four different materials,

cork floors stand out as being the best solution to retain heat. Better than wood and by far better than vinyl or ceramic when it comes to avoid energy dispersion. Wicanders cork floors are perfect for homes with children and busy feet providing happy moments between family and friends.

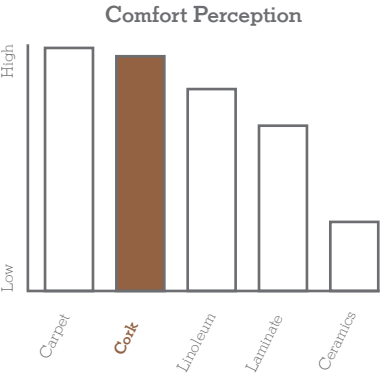




+ WALKING COMFORT

Cork floors are very comfortable to walk on due to cork’s natural and inherent flexibility providing a unique comfort in movement. When testing the level of comfort perception of people walking for 45 minutes over five different materials, results show that Wicanders cork floors have a great outcome.

With high comfort perception, it outperforms linoleum, laminate and ceramic floors. Even when walking barefoot on a Wicanders floor, a sense of cosiness, relaxation and enjoyment is felt, adding to the overall well-being. Pleasant to touch and easy to walk on: that’s how valuable Wicanders cork floors are.

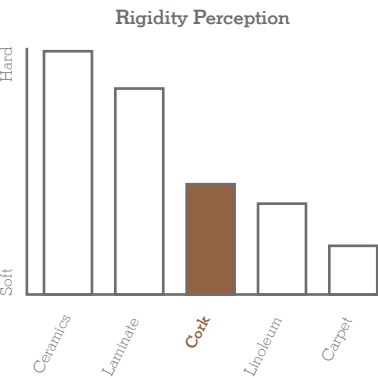


After 45 minutes walking in contact with five different materials, studies state that Wicanders cork floors have a much higher comfort perception than linoleum, laminate and ceramic floors. Study run by IBV biomechanical institute in Valencia, Spain.

+ BODY WELLNESS

Walking on overly hard floors creates energy that moves upward towards our muscles and tendons, causing them to vibrate. This is caused by the impact of our heel with the floor. These vibrations, with time, hurt our feet, legs, lower and upper back, creating an excess of tension. Too soft floors cause fatigue and aren't easy to walk on. This can be

better understood when walking for 45 minutes straight on soft sand. Softer than laminate and harder than carpets, Wicanders cork floors are the perfect mix to reduce heel strike impacts and related body tensions, but stable enough to help the foot impulse and provide the needed stability to reduce effort on walking and decrease body fatigue.



Tests show that Wicanders cork floors are the perfect mix between overly hard or too soft floors, being easy on the body as they provide reduction in tensions and fatigue. Study run by IBV biomechanical institute in Valencia, Spain.

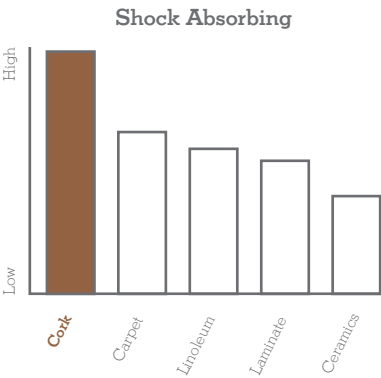




+ IMPACT RESISTANCE

Cork’s elasticity and compressibility allows it to adapt to pressure. When compressed, it doesn’t lose flexibility, recovering its initial shape and volume without suffering damages. Wicanders floors, due to its resilient qualities have the ability to bounce back from hard impacts. Tests show that Wicanders cork floors have the highest shock absorbing performance.

When an object accidentally falls in a cork or in a laminate floor, different results come through. Wicanders floors absorb better the impact maintaining its resistance at the same time. This results in a very robust flooring with a long life span.



Tests show that Wicanders cork floors are the most shock absorbing. Study run by IBV biomechanical institute in Valencia, Spain.

CORK IS REFERENCE

MORE REFERENCE PROJECTS

The unique properties of cork make Wicanders acknowledged worldwide by architects, designers and engineers. From homes to hotels, restaurants to libraries, museums

to hospitals, Wicanders coverings can be found all over the world perfectly matching the specificity of the projects that they're chosen for.



- 1 Hotel Tryp Oriente - Portugal
- 2 Microsoft headquarters - Portugal
- 3 The Greenhouse Hohenort - South Africa
- 4 Edmonton Public Library - USA
- 5 La Sagrada Familia - Spain
- 6 Nezu-museum – Japan

A wide-angle photograph of a cork oak forest. The trees have thick, gnarled trunks and dense, green foliage that creates a canopy overhead. The ground is covered in green grass and low-lying plants. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

**CORK'S
NATURAL COMFORT
FOR EVERY
SPECIAL SPACE**



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