

40 million cells per cm³

A five part intra cellular layer maintains the structure and rigidity of each cell.

One cubic centimeter contains somewhere around 40 million cells.

Cork granules are most excellent thermal insulators and can reduce heat loss by 36%. In roofing cork can bring down heat till 53%. Of course cork granules also are used in areas with extreme low temperatures.



Cork in space shuttles

Being naturally elastic, cork is an excellent product being used in anti earthquake technology. Perhaps the most exciting use of cork has been as the protective heat shield in missiles and space craft, including the space shuttle.

SURVIVING THE CENTURIES !!!

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THE NATURAL CORK IN A MODERN WORLD

THE POTENTIAL OF THE CORK WAS ALREADY DISCOVERED BY THE EGYPTIANS



Cork is the name given to the suberose parenchyma, or bark of the cork oak, a tree of the beech family. In Egypt, tombs dating back thousands of years were found to contain amphorae still being in perfect shape. In the first century Lucio Columela recommended making beehives because of the low heat conduction of the cork.. Also in the first century Mr. Paius Pliny the

Elder already referred to roofs of cork as a tradition, which has persisted in areas of North Africa and recommended as an excellent temperature insulation.



The Greek doctor Dioscorides

Dioscorides, the second century Greek doctor, gives medicinal uses of the suberose tissue of the cork oak. One of his recipes states that "charred cork rubbed on bald patches with laurel sap makes the hair grow again, thicker and darker than before. A picture of Dioscorides shows a bald man.....



Cork and it's already long lasting popularity

Cork enjoyed an evident popularity in the 15th. century in the abundance of cork oak motifs on tomb stones, pulpits and altar plinths, in the decoration of frontons and gardens, on the capitals and arches of cloisters, etc. Both the Livro de Horas de D. Manuel and the famous window at the Convento de Christo in Tomar bear eloquent witness to this fashion.

Cork on the map

The majority of the cork oaks are growing in the area of the western Mediterranean basin. A cork oak produces cork tissue until the cork oak is 150 or even 200 years of age. During this time the tree may be stripped 15 to 18 times.

The average age of the cork oaks being in production at present is 85 years and the area under plantation is growing by an average of 4% per year. Therefore the cork production has a rosy future. Legal and very strict stripping regulations make sure the cork oak forests will not be subject to violence or commercial abuse.

Cork and it's strict harvesting regulations

The inner bark is surrounded by cork to be stripped between 10 and 15 years. The first stripping is prohibited from trees less than 9 years old. The branches of the cork oak may spread high and wide and can have a branch spreading over more than 500m2.

Millions of natural cells generate the excellent insulation properties

Cork is highly homogenous, consisting almost entirely of cellular membranes through which no channels run. Although cork clings to the tree, cork tissue is formed of dead cells. The cork cell presents a minimal quantity of solid material and a maximum of gaseous materials, essentially atmospheric air but without carbon dioxide.

