

Techwood Veneers

Combining Quality, Economy and Sustainability

Since its founding, Knoll has combined the natural warmth and durability of wood with clean modern design. Over the past eight decades, we've incorporated sustainability through responsible wood management and established a tradition of shaping custom solutions to meet our clients' specific needs.

The use of Techwood veneers allows Knoll to provide customers with a product that reflects the high-quality and aesthetic one would expect from wood furnishings through a cost-effective and environmentally-friendly solution.

What is Techwood?

Techwood is a genuine wood veneer that has been enhanced by modern technology. The raw materials of our Techwood are harvested from a blend of poplar and African obeche trees—a large, West African tree that grows to more than 50 meters high and 1.5 meters at the base of the trunk. Obeche is a light-weight wood with a pleasant appearance of soft white to pale yellow with a natural luster that gives a silky finish. In addition, obeche can be dried quickly and, once dry, is very stable. Due to its light weight, the wood is easy to saw and work with. For these reasons, obeche is ideal for use in veneers.

Techwood is manufactured by rotary slicing a log which is dyed or bleached in sheets of eight. The sheets are dried and fed through a glue spreader, which applies adhesive to both sides of the veneer. The wood is then pressed together in a press block to define grain pattern and is plain sliced into veneer sheets. Once this process is completed, the sheets are ready for application.

Economy

Because of Techwood's manufacture process, the product eliminates the variability and mismatches that can occur with working with natural wood species. The elimination of these factors allows for significantly greater yield than in using traditional veneers (80% versus 30%, respectively). This translates to an average price point that is approximately 10% less for Techwood than traditional veneers.

Quality and Aesthetic

The quality of a wood product is often contingent on its being consistent and, oftentimes, it is the variability in wood that creates the image of an unacceptable product. Techwood creates the lasting illusion of a consistent material by manipulating the product so completely that little variability remains. In actuality, far greater consistency can be created with Techwood than is possible with natural veneer products.

Techwood additionally offers the following advantages with regard to quality and aesthetic:

- + 100% natural wood used in veneers.
- + The pattern created in the block, which is reflected in the grain of the Techwood veneer, can be designed to provide desired effects such as "cathedrals."
- + Techwood can be finished with the full range of colors in the Knoll palette and in clear coat.
- + Both closed and open pore finishes are available.
- + Open pore Techwood is finished in a process designed to optimize grain visibility.

Sustainability

In addition to the increased yield and significant cut down of waste in the manufacture of Techwood, the use of this product helps Knoll and our clients achieve sustainability goals. Specifically, the incorporation of Techwood veneers into an organization's workplace reflects a commitment to the environment and sustainability as well as:

- + Positions businesses to take advantage of a growing number of state and local government incentives.
- + Increases press interest and positive image for your organization.
- + Demonstrates to employees, clients and peers that environmental goals are a priority, which, in turn, can serve to increase the attraction and retention of customers as well as your organization's talent pool.

Standard Techwoods are covered under our Sustainable Wood Policy which dictates that:

KNOLL WILL

- + Identify and document the country and district of origin of all wood products it procures.
- + Confirm to the best of its abilities that all suppliers of forest products are in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing timber harvesting.
- + Require that each forest from which wood or wood fiber is derived for Knoll products has a sustainable forest management program in place that is certified by an independent third-party.
- + Wood harvested from forest areas where traditional or civil rights are violated.

KNOLL WILL NOT USE WOOD FROM THE FOLLOWING CONTROLLED CATEGORIES

- + Wood harvested from non-FSC forests having high conservation values which are threatened or not managed using sustainable forest practices.
- + Wood harvested from primary tropical moist forests that are not managed using sustainable forestry practices as verified by an independent third-party audit.
- + Wood harvested from intact forests as defined by the World Resources Institute's (WRI) Global Forest Watch mapping, as it is developed.
- + Wood harvested from primary forests in temperate or boreal forest regions that are not managed using sustainable forestry practices as verified by an independent third-party audit.
- + Wood harvested from genetically modified (GM) trees.
- + Illegally harvested wood.
- + Natural forests that have been converted to plantations or non-forest use.