



FAQ's

The NAVECO range is made up of a broad variety of environmentally responsible materials. The range can be separated into two categories; recycled/reclaimed wood products and composite almond shell panels.

Below are some Frequently Asked Questions that relate to both categories.

Bismarck, Buttons, Cubic, Domino, Dunes, Leather, Matrix, Moonbase, Paperwall, Pillow, Pods, Quatro, Waves

Q. What is the material used in these panels and pieces?

A. The material is basically triturerated almond shell and synthetic resins. The almond shell contains lignin and cellulose, which are basic components of wood. This makes the panels and pieces have behaviour and properties half-way between wood and plastic materials.

The different components of the paste, after being mixed, polymerize in closed molds under pressure and at constant temperature and, after a set period, finished solid, rigid pieces are obtained that just need finishing.

Q. What are the characteristics of the material?

A. We could highlight the following items from amongst the main characteristics of the material:

- **Ecological material** – the fact that we make the most of a vegetable waste which does not produce any kind of liquid, solid or gaseous residue during the manufacturing process, and the fact that it is a biodegradable and recyclable material, mean that we can classify the material as ecological and avoid the cutting down of trees as it can function as a wood substitute.
- **Mimic Material** – it adopts the form of the mold as well as the texture with great precision.
- **Variable Density** – with the same paste, we can obtain objects with very different densities ranging from 175gr/litre to 700gr/litre.
- **Mechanical resistance** – the material has a variable mechanical resistance which depends on its density. With a higher density the material is very hard and resistant to knocks and abrasion; with a low density it is less resistant but more elastic and lighter. With a medium density we can achieve excellent parameters to be able to work with the material for optimum results as far as the cut, sanding, drilling, screwing and nailing are concerned.
- **Weather resistance** – the material is practically immune to the effects of sun and is completely waterproof.
- **Humidity** – the material is completely water resistant. In fact, we are building bathtubs, sinks and shower basins with it.

- **Fire resistance** – we can make the material so as to be fire resistant from grades M4 through M1 according to the Spanish Basic Building Regulations, depending on the object we wish to manufacture.
- **Insulation** – the resin creates interior micro pores as it is polymerized which means that it is perfect insulation both for heat and acoustics. Thanks to their normally curvy forms, the coverings have a dissipating effect on sound and reverberations.
- **Resistance against woodworm and other biotic agents** - it does not attract termites, woodworm, rot fungi or larvae insects and nor does it encourage the nesting of rodents and other insects.
- **Cleaning** – It is resistant against almost all home cleaning products and of course against water.

Q. Are there any toxic vapours released?

A. The product does not release any toxic vapours.

Q. What is the Synthetic resin is made up of?

A. Unfortunately, we cannot reveal much about the secret formula of the product— we can guarantee it is made of synthetic resins, crushed almond shell and other materials for improvement of fire behaviour. That is why sometimes it is hard to certify certain aspects of the material, the exact composition cannot be revealed.

Q. Your installation sheet says to leave the 2 panels packed together in case of movement or warping? I thought the product would be rigid once out of the mould and set?

A. The panels are rigid, however, once primed, painted or lacquered, forces create tension and panels can warp slightly. Therefore, it is required panels are piled or stocked against their backs, in pairs, until installation. Once installed, there is no chance of warping.

In this case, warehousing of the goods would have to be in the supplied box, in pairs. You can open the boxes, inspect the pieces, take the wrapping film out...but then you must re-pack them to prevent this possible warping.

Q. If I have a wall 2600mm high, and I'm using a 600mm panel, what do I do with the extra 200mm above or below the panels? How do I finish the 200mm gap at the top if I start on the floor?

A. Completely up to the architect/designer to decide. We could provide flat panels for this purpose, but you can always use other materials such as lacquered wood/MDF...or leave the gap and paint it, or use a piece you can cut that has a continuous pattern, like for instance waves.

Every installation is a world on its own. Same as per edge finishes. If the panels do not go wall to wall, you can cover the exposed edge with a wooden strip, same colour, or alternatively, you can use a skirting board like profile.

Q. How are the panels cut and joined when you have exposed corners? Is there an aluminium channel that is used for corners or do you mitre cut them?

A. As per edges, you can mitre them or you can use some other type of material to make the angle. See Technical Information PDF for Edge finish example.

Q. Can the product be used externally?

A. Internal use is ideal. The product can be used externally, but performance will depend on the type of surface finish applied. The product is waterproof, but the sun, temperature, seasonal variance, etc all have their own unique issues.

Albasia, Bark, Coconut Wood, Piazza Cocoa, Rosewood, Teak Strata

Q. What materials are used in these panels?

A. These panels are manufactured using by-product materials sourced from a range of industries. Supply of these by-products includes *Teak* from the furniture industry; *Coconut shells* from the food industry; *Coconut tree wood* from the construction industry; *Rosewood and Albasia wood* and *Teak bark* from the timber industry. These materials are cut to size and glued to a plywood backing to create the unique NAVECO range.

Q. What is the coating used on these panels?

A. The panels are finished with a clear matt coating. The Rosewood panel is supplied prefinished with an organic oil found in pineapple fibre, the outcome is a tough natural matt coating.

Q. Where do the Twigs pieces come from?

The Twigs section comprises Albasia and Rosewood panels. Albasia wood products are generally sought after for the high strength to weight ratio. Albasia trees grow very easy and very fast in many types of soil. They can reach a height of approximately 10 metres and a diameter of 20-30cm in only two years. The twigs used in our Albasia panels are waste from the timber industry, and would otherwise be burned or turned into landfill. The rosewood pieces used in our panels come from TFT certified plantations. Rosewood has always been a popular timber within the woodworking industry due to the colour of the heartwood and the dark attractive figure of the timber. The pieces we use are from smaller branches cut from logs used by the woodworking industry. Normally these pieces would be burned.

Q. Can Piazza Cocoa panels be used in high traffic areas?

A. Piazza Cocoa panels are made using coconut shells, a by-product from the food industry. Piazza Cocoa is a prefinished, hardwearing product and can be used in high traffic areas. Available on a flexible mesh backing, Piazza Cocoa Tile can be used for splash backs in wet areas. Piazza Cocoa Tile is also suited for any curved surfaces such as columns or curved walls.

Q. How are these panels made?

A. These panels are handmade by skilled artisans, giving each design character and style, something a machine made panel would be unable to offer.

Q. Is there difference between production runs?

A. As these panels are handmade using recycled materials, there may be slight differences between batches. The overall look of the panels is varied enough for slight differences to remain inconspicuous.

Q. What is the size of these panels?

A. These panels are 3050 x 1300mm. The depth varies between designs.