Enviroven

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Enviroven?

Enviroven is a range of sliced, reconstructed real wood veneers made from rotary peeled timber that is colour enhanced, reformed into a square log and then re-sliced into rectangular veneer sheets.

What applications is Enviroven suited to?

Suitable for use as feature wall paneling, joinery, furniture, doors, as well as acoustic paneling. Enviroven is manufactured in Italy from Poplar, European Linden Tree's and Obeche (Ayous) veneers from the Cameroon forests.

What are the advantages of Enviroven?

- Supplied in standard sheet sizes for better yield
- More suited to modern furniture manufacturing processes
- Can be handled, jointed and laid more easily than conventional veneers
- Free from the splits, knots, holes and discolouration found in conventional veneers
- Even in colour and pattern it allows consistency of continuous sheets
- Allows considerable saving of time, materials and labour
- Allows future additions to be more easily matched, damaged panels more easily replaced.

What is a reconstructed veneer?

These veneers are constant in colour and pattern and free from the splits, knots, holes and discolouration found in conventional timber veneers.

What is veneer peeling?

The logs selected are rotary peeled into thin sheets with a peeling machine and then cut into the sizes required for the manufacturing process.

What dyeing system is used?

A dyeing process is used to obtain the required colour shades for each sheet of veneer. Due to industry research, dyeing systems based on water cycles have been developed.

Wood sheets are impregnated by immersion into steel tanks at controlled temperatures with the addition of soluble dyes made of an organic structure and do not contain chrome or other heavy metals.

What is the veneer drying process?

During the dyeing process, moisture reaches 100%. Through the drying of the dyed veneer sheets in hot air dryers, the excess moisture is eliminated. As the dyed veneer sheets exit the drying tunnel, they undergo a further quality selection.

What is the composition of reconstructed veneers?

Based on the wood species to be reproduced, or the selected design, the dyed veneers are mixed, superimposed with the same fibre direction and piled up for pressing.

How are reconstructed veneers Glued?

Each pack of sheets is put into a gluing roller that spreads some glue on each sheet. This gluing operation serves two important functions; it transforms the pack of sheets into a monolith and determines particular patterns according to the colour glue used.

How are Enviroven veneers pressed?

Each block of glued sheets is put into a flat press or presses containing particular moulds, based on the final design, to be achieved.

The different moulds determine the pattern of the grain. At the end of this stage there is a compact rectangular block a few metres long and about 700mm wide and high.

How are veneers sliced?

Each compact rectangular block is squared and sanded before being sliced or sawn to obtain veneers or boards

What is an Isolator Layer?

We recommend the application of a polyurethane isolator layer to separate the salts and tannins in the timber from any chemical reactions with the polish.

What is Choking?

Enviroven is an open pored timber and can be finished to achieve either an open pore or closed pore (smooth) look. For a closed pore look the finish should be described as fully choked.

What is the gloss level of the different veneer finishes?

As a general guide: matt can be described as 0 = 10% gloss level, low sheen 10 = 25%, satin 25 = 50%, semi-gloss 50 = 80% and high gloss 80 = 100%. (Source: Master Painters Institute).

What is Enviroven's likely reaction to light?

All timbers change colour over time when subjected to direct and indirect light, both natural and artificial. In addition, heat and humidity will accelerate the ageing process and finished colour may also be affected by such things as staining, polish, excessive heat in panel production and reaction to glues and other chemicals. Some timber colours change more than others. To minimise this change we recommend the use of a toner in the finishing system, as well as sufficient amounts of UV inhibitor (non-yellowing agent) in each coat of polish, at a percentage recommended by your qualified polisher. However, we stress that no timber products or finishes will withstand prolonged exposure to light without exhibiting some change over time, therefore, we do not recommend the use of Enviroven in areas subject to high light exposure.

What finishing is recommended?

Some polyurethanes are more yellow than others and may also become more yellow with age. To minimise this, we suggest using 2-Pac Polyurethane with an added Non Yellowing Agent and UV Inhibitor. For more information on the polishes available please refer to relevant suppliers of these products.

Should veneer finishing include UV Protection?

It is recommended that Enviroven be finished with a polish that includes suitable quantities of UV inhibitors or absorbers in each coat of polish.

Will the appearance of Enviroven veneers change when they are finished?

It is important to note that the colour of the timber will be changed by the application of a finish. The best way to determine the potential colour change on a piece of raw veneer is to moisten the surface with a damp cloth. Indicative polished samples can be provided on request.

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What is the difference between staining and toning veneers?

The colour of Enviroven can be changed to achieve a specific colour or to improve its light fastness. For larger changes in colour, staining is the preferred method. After sanding, an oil-based wiping or penetrating stain is applied by hand, prior to polishing. For small changes in colour, toning may be used. Toning is achieved by adding colour to the first (closest to the timber) coats of polish. It is important to provide a polished sample of the specified veneer (indicative of the final finish) to the cabinetmaker responsible for the project. It is recommended that you also run fabrication tests to determine the potential for colour change.

What colour variation should I expect?

Enviroven `logs' produce approximately 1000 leaves of veneer. Within these logs the variation is minimal, however logs from different colour batches may vary in colour by up to 10% due to natural variations in the timbers, their absorption of the dyes and different dye batches. Different coating systems can also change the finished colour of the veneer. In large or lengthy projects it is important to manage the integration of a new log into the fit-out to avoid noticeable variations, e.g. do not use veneer from 2 different logs in the same section of wall paneling.

What do I need to know about matching and joining?

The method used to splice veneer results in a tight (smooth) side and a loose (rough) side. Enviroven should be pressed with the tight side to the panel, so that the loose side is sanded back towards the tighter/ smoother grain. It is recommended that Enviroven sheets be slip matched (joined side by side).

What edging is available?

Matching veneer edging is available for all Enviroven products in varying widths and thickness.

What is the panel stability

To prevent your veneered panels from warping or bowing, they should be backed with a timber veneer of similar thickness and strength (balancing veneer). For surfaces that will not be seen, we recommend the use of our reconstructed down grade backing veneer. For surfaces that will be seen the face veneer should be used on the back. When ordering from your cabinetmaker please be aware that these are also known as Good One Side (g1s) with a specified or colour matched back, and Good Two Sides (g2s).

What are the standard dimensions of Enviroven?

Width: 620mm .

Length: 2500 / 310mm (+ overtrim) Lengths

What is the Nominal Thickness of Enviroven?

0.6mm (tolerance +/ 0.08mm)

What are the sheet tolerances?

Sheets are usually supplied 40mm longer and 20mm wider.

What is the moisture content?

8% – 12%

What is the specific weight?

Depending on the base wood used varies from 450 – 650kg/m3

What is the material content?

Wood 90% – 92%; Adhesive 8%; Dye 0% – 2%

What glues are used?

Urea glues have been used in the manufacturing process and contain formaldehyde emissions which are less than 2.5mg/m2 per hour according to EN 717-2 rule. This has been tested and certified by an outside laboratory body, CATAS.

What does Enviroven 1 mean?

These reconstructed veneers are made from Plantation Poplar and are grown mainly in the Pandania Plain in Northern Italy. The life cycle of the tree is 10-12 years; it is then cropped and replaced by new seedlings. This is then transported to the Alpi Mill in Modigliani Italy.

What does Enviroven 2 mean?

These reconstructed veneers are made from Obeche (Ayous) veneers, and are sourced through a strict forest management program. The Alpi Group, in partnership with TFT (Tropical Forest Trust), has set in motion a continuous improvement project - following internationally recognised criteria - for the achievement of specific levels of excellence in forest management in Cameroon. This continuous improvement project adheres to FSC guidelines. The Cameroon forest concessions are managed under a stringent and thorough forestry management plan. This plan is in accordance with Cameroon forestry regulation, Law Number 94/01 - decree 95/531. This regulation is designed to achieve maximum sustainability and the lowest possible environmental impact. The volume of regrowth is always higher than the volume of harvested wood in the same area.

What does Enviroven 3 mean?

These reconstructed veneers are made from the Linden Tree grown in European forests.