



CRA

CRA'S COMMITMENT TO CORN AND RENEWABLE PRODUCTS

CORN IMPROVES FLOORING

From the moment you step into our offices, corn is at hard at work. The entryway tiles are 14% bio-polymer, which helps provide five times greater resistance to impact and more than two-and-a-half times greater resistance to cracking than standard composition tile.

BIOPLASTIC CHAIRS

Throughout the office, you'll find chairs with a natural white color. The rounded piece that makes up the seat, back and arms of each chair is made from ten pounds of bioplastic, sourced from cornstarch and other natural fibers. This renewable resource can be injected or extruded – providing manufacturers maximum flexibility in shaping and molding new products, while also providing you maximum comfort.

SORGHUM & CORN KITCHEN ISLAND

Our kitchen island is 50% sorghum straw and stalks. Mixed with an acrylic resin and coated with a corn-based varnish for added toughness, the combination of these plant-based products creates a unique and durable surface that can also serve in other office buildings as wall paneling, countertops, furniture and even vanities, contributing to those projects' LEED certification.

CORN CARPET

That soft, plush product beneath your feet in the entry hallway is 37% corn. By replacing nylon with renewable corn sugar, this environmentally-friendly flooring requires 30% less energy and emissions than its petroleum-based counterpart. Better still, carpet retailers describe it as durable, resilient and stain-resistant. Take off your shoes and wriggle your toes in it. We won't tell.

CORN ADHESIVES EVERYWHERE

Cornstarch is found in a broad range of adhesives, including wallpaper glue and on the back of envelopes and stamps. A corn product called dextrin is a key ingredient in creating those tacky, water-activated surfaces, and was used in our offices to hang our graphic walls. Dextrin is also commonly used when bonding paper layers together, for example in cardboard boxes.

THE WALLS HAVE EARS – OF CORN

The walls that surround you here – and almost certainly at your own office or home – include corn. The core of most drywall is gypsum, the same material found in chalkboard chalk or plaster. That gypsum is then covered with a layer of thick paper boards similar to cardboard. What holds all these layers together? A bonding and gluing agent made of cornstarch, of course.

CORN THROUGHOUT THE KITCHEN

The single-use serviceware in our kitchen is made from PLA corn plastics: our plates, utensils, cups and straws. So, too, our coffee cups marked “CRA” and coasters. Better still, all these products are available online at consumer-friendly prices.

And when it’s time to dispose of the single-use items, they go into CRA’s composting bin with our food scraps. Many argue that composting such products is an improvement on recycling. Why? Because food scraps often cling to materials destined for the recycling bin. That contamination can prevent those materials from being recycled, ultimately creating more waste. Those worries are eliminated when composting PLA corn plastics and food. Our composting bin is picked up by Veteran Compost (a local, veteran-owned small business) and taken to their local facility – ensuring that even our waste doesn’t go to waste.

CORN IN LIQUID SOAPS

When you wash your hands in the kitchen or bathroom, once again, you’re likely using corn products. In many cases, one-quarter of the ingredients in liquid hand soap are corn-based, including corn oil and products made from bioprocessing. For example, xanthan gum thickens and stabilizes soap. Corn is also found in a range of other household cleaners. And for that finishing touch, don’t forget your hand sanitizer – there’s corn in there as well.

BANANA COUNTERTOPS (COPY ROOM)

Today, designers are seeking natural-looking materials in offices and other public environments. We’ve used plant-based ingenuity to achieve this dynamic look in our copy room, with countertops that utilize dried banana fibers.

PAPER PRODUCTS

Business cards, stationary, envelopes, notepads – you name it – if we ordered it from a printer, we requested 100% recycled paper and plant-based inks. The benefits of recycled paper have long been known. But adding plant-based ink is important, too. Besides being a renewable resource and biodegradable, commercial printers find they need less to do the same job as traditional inks. And when it’s time to recycle this paper again, plant-based inks are easier to remove, ensuring higher-quality paper next time while also lowering the cost of the recycling process. Even if you can’t find plant-based ink, rest easy knowing that corn is found in many traditional inks – whose consistency is controlled by corn starch.