

SIKALINDI® PANELS

TECHNICAL SHEET OF SEMI-FINISHED

Characteristics and eco-sustainability of the raw material:

The material Sikalindi® is obtained from the manufacturing of the woody fiber contained into the cladodes of the Prickly Pear Cactus ("Opuntia Ficus Indica") extracted with a special procedure that has been patented. That procedure is held in respect of the life cycles of the plant, that is a fast growing plant, it is ecological and doesn't use any pollutant product.

Description of the Sikalindi® Panel:

The Sikalindi patented Panels have a thickness of 2 cm and are composed from a support in plywood of birch or poplar and a covering (veneer) of 1 m/m of woody fiber of Prickly Pear Cactus (Sikalindi). In order to guarantee the complete eco-sustainability of the product, for the supports we use exclusively plywood certified PEFC (Pan European Forest Council). The Panels are assembled with a technique very similar to that of the classical veneering. Since the woody fiber of the Prickly Pear Cactus is extracted in pieces of little size (the same size of the cladodes, the leaves), the continuity is obtained by an accurate collage made by hand from skilled craftsmen. That phase includes also an accurate sanding made first by machinery and then by hand, that is necessary for giving the uniformity of thickness to the plan. Then the surface is treated with special products and resins for wood. Those products preserve the material from the attack of eventual parrassites, increase the mechanical resistance and make it water-resistant. The last phase of manufacturing, the varnishing, is made by using specific products for wood of new generation and with low environmental impact. All the products utilized for the treatment of the surface of our Panels comes from companies with Environmental Certificate ISO 14001.

Technical and aesthetics characteristics.

The Panels are delivered pre-finished color NATURAL, treated with polyuretanic matt varnishing 10 gloss transparent. The surface of the Sikalindi (R) Panels is characterized by a strong materiality , and by the veins with open pore. At the same moment it is absolutely soft to the touch, perfectly smooth and without any asperity. It has an high mechanical resistance, similar to that of a panel in plywood veneered with an hard wood such as oak or beech. The surface of the panels is water-resistant.

How to work the Panels.

The Sikalindi ® Panel, being it pre-fined, could be worked very easily by a skilled carpenter.

Any cut can be made with ordinary machinery used in woodworking, just paying attention to the blade sharpening so to avoid any cracking of the edges.

The Panel cutted in the desired shape and measure can be stucked on an other panel, can be edged with solid wood or a veneer, or can be simply sanded and left at sight.

Once you buy the Panel we advice you to work it as soon as possible, just to avoid any eventual movement of it, due to humidity or temperature range.

Varnishing

The Panel, as we said, is pre-varnished of color NATURAL, with matt polyuretanic varnish 10 gloss transparent. Anyway if you desire to make it of an other color you can over-varnish it by using one of the following kind of varnish: polyuretanic, syntetic or water-based.

Generally the best results come out with the same kind of varnish used by us, that is polyuretanic 10 gloss. More attention should be payed when making strong colors.

We suggest to use the PAINTBRUSH and a product very fluid so to make the colour go inside the open pores of the material. If necessary you can repeat the varnishing a second time.

NOTE:

The first times you use the Sikalindi Panels, we suggest to make some test over scrap pieces, above all in case of strong colors or very dark ones.

Measures

We realize Panels custom-size according to Your needs, with some limitations:

- Minimum measure: cm 60 x120
(Generally ready to deliver)
- Lenght max cm 250
- Width max cm 121
- Thickness standard cm 2 (about)
- At request other thicknesses

Types of Panels

The Panels are available in three types:

- Longitudinal Fiber (L)
- Transversal Fiber (T)
- Oblique Fiber (O)

Maintenance and cleaning.

Furniture made by utilizing the Sikalindi Panels doesn't need any particular care or maintenance.

The precision of manufacturing and of the treatments guarantees the resistance and the durability of the material over time.

The daily cleaning can be done with a microfiber cleaning cloth. Once in a while it could be necessary to remove the dust that is gone inside the pores, and that can be easily done by utilizing a common clothes brush, or with a paintbrush.

Eventual traces of grease can be eliminated by using a little quantity of liquid soap and a wet cloth, paying attention to wiping up immediately after cleaning. Do not use absolutely abrasive products.

Place of production.	All the phases of production of the Sikalindi Panels are carried in Italy, into some handicraft laboratories located in the Salento area.
	<p>NOTE:</p> <p>The process of production mostly handicraft combined with the diversity of the grain of the Prickly Pear Cactus Fiber make the Sikalindi Panels non comparable with the common industrial semi-finished products, and rather more similar to "unique pieces", with the essential characteristic of diversity and authenticity of every piece.</p> <p>Before buying our Panels we suggest to see them by real, or alternatively we suggest to take confidence with those peculiarities by looking at the several pictures available on our website www.sikalindi.it.</p>

(Updated to October 2012)