



## Cork's "GREEN" Story

Only nature could create the amazing and unique cork oak tree, *Quercus suber*. Unlike other oak trees, the cork oak tree is an evergreen native to the Mediterranean Sea region. While the bark of most trees is essential to the tree's survival, the bark of the cork oak tree is only a protective covering and can be removed without causing harm to the tree. The cork tree's life span is 150-250 years, of which about 100 years offer good quality cork. The bark (cork) regenerates and is harvested every 7-9 years, improving in quality and quantity as the tree matures.

After the bark has been removed using a simple axe, it is dried and boiled. The pieces of bark are then drilled for wine stoppers or "corks". It is this post-industrial waste cork which is ground up and used for cork flooring as well as other uses. Every part of the cork oak tree has uses, even the cork dust. The ground up cork is put into molds and is baked at varying temperatures, offering natural shades from light to medium to dark. Due to the unique properties of cork cell structure, which are bonded together by a strong natural resinous substance, little additional resin is needed to hold cork together. Cork flooring is all-natural, from a renewable resource in forests that have their own eco-system. Use of water-based polyurethane to finish the tiles and water-based adhesives to install the tiles, further enhances the cork green story. Maintaining cork is simple, requiring regular dusting or vacuuming and use of water and neutral floor cleaners. Well-maintained cork floors can last decades and the long life cycle of cork saves energy.

Capri's Mediterra Cork Collection is FloorScore® certified and can contribute to LEED credits.

What flooring option is "greener" than the Mediterra Collection from Capri cork?