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1 *Developed by the Fraunhofer WKI: Vegan, bio-based imitation leather for interior use.*

BIO-BASED IMITATION LEATHER FOR INTERIOR APPLICATIONS

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Vegan imitation leather

The Fraunhofer WKI has developed a vegan, bio-based imitation leather for interior design which can be equipped with a functional surface. A biocide-free antimicrobial layer ensures protection against germs, whilst a hydrophobic layer has a pleasant feel and protects against water. These properties are achieved through the use of renewable raw materials: The vegetable oils in the formulation create the water-repellent properties and are simultaneously the prerequisite for the pleasant feel of the material. The sugar components enable the coupling of chemical structures which equip the vegan imitation leather with an antimicrobial surface.

Through variation of the oil and sugar content, it is possible to produce highly elastic or very strong and resilient imitation leather.

Possible applications include furniture, decorative wall elements, handrails for staircases, and furniture fronts. The vegan imitation leather is low in emissions and becomes odorless after a very short time.

The use of renewable raw materials in the vegan imitation leather significantly increases the proportion of materials with a small CO₂ footprint; the product performance, however, thereby remains unchanged.