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Material Name: fiberboard

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Description

A rigid composite board of pressed cellulose fibers used as a building material. First patented in 1858, fiberboards were composed of wood chips or plant fibers, such as [grass](#), [reed](#), [straw](#), [bagasse](#) ([Celotex](#)), [jute](#), [flax](#), or [hemp](#). Manufacturers have also recycled waste materials such as [sawdust](#), [bark](#), oat hulls, spent hops, newspaper ([Homasote](#)) and peanut shells. The fibers are compressed and bonded with heat and pressure. Many fiberboards are held together by the interlocking fibers and natural adhesives (wet process); other fiberboards have additional adhesive components such as [urea formaldehyde resin](#), [water glass](#), [dextrin](#), [asphalt](#), [rosin](#), [paraffin wax](#), [plaster](#), and/or [clay](#). The standard size for fiberboards is 4 x 8 feet. Very dense fiberboard is called hardboard (see also [Masonite](#)). Some commercially available formaldehyde-free fiberboards are Masonite® Presdwood®, [Medex](#), Medite II and Iso-board (Hatchfield 2002). Fiberboards are generally classified as low-density (Celotex, etc.), medium-density (Medex, Medite, etc.), or high-density (Masonite®, Upson Board, Marinite®, Homasote®, etc.).

Synonyms and Related Terms

"fibre-board (Br.); fibreboard (Br.); carton-fibre (Fr.); carton fort (Fr.); aglomerado de madeira (Port.); particle board; composition board; wallboard; hardboard; fiber board; high-density fiberboard (HDF); medium-density fiberboard (MDF); low-density fiberboard (LDF)

Brand names: Masonite® [IPI]; Presdwood®; Medex; Medite; Duron® [IPI]; Upson; Homasote®; Insulite; Beaver Board; Cornell Board; Feltex; Fir-Tex; Nu-Wood; C-X Board; Quarttrboard; Celotex;

Hazards and Safety

Any wood product may release organic acids with time.

Fiberboards are susceptible to dry rot, fungal growths and termites.

Additional Information

° C. Gould, K. Konrad, K. Milley, R. Gallagher, "Fiberboard", in *Twentieth-Century Building Materials*, T. Jester (ed.), McGraw-Hill: New York, 1995.

° P. Hatchfield, *Pollutants in the Museum Environment*, Archetype Press, London, 2002.

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Description

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