




QURKIES

ECO-FRIENDLY TOYS MADE OF CORK

Why QURKIES?

At QURKIES we love Duplo® because it boosts creativity... We also love nature and ecologic sense. So why not make those toy blocks from a natural material? Exactly! Because we want the best future for our kids, we have made QURKIES; educational toy blocks made from natural and eco-friendly cork.

Eco friendly: Cork is one of the most eco-friendly materials. Cork is an amazing CO2 sponge. Cork leaves no production waste and is fully recyclable.

Soft: Ever stepped barefooted on a plastic block? That %^&# hurts! QURKIES are safe for your kids and soft for your feet.

Silent: No more noise from that falling tower. QURKIES create a peaceful atmosphere during play. They are friendly for your home and your neighbors.

Compatible: QURKIES are fully compatible with original Duplo® and unlocks new levels of playing. Build a catamaran or unleash your fantasy.

Are QURKIES safe?

YES. QURKIES are certified safe according to the EU toys standard for the age it is intended for (3+). QURKIES natural material is completely harmless. For our smallest children, caution and parental supervision is advised as teething children tend to put toys in their mouth which might cause breakage of pieces and potential choking hazard.

Are QURKIES hygienic?

YES. Cork has antibacterial, antifungal and anti-allergenic compounds by nature. To clean QURKIES; just soak them in lukewarm water or wipe them with a wet cloth. It is not recommended to put QURKIES in the dishwasher or to boil them. Cork shrinks when washed in hot water, this affects the fitting.

Are QURKIES water proof?

QURKIES are great fun in the bath. Cork is a natural material that absorbs and releases water. When it absorbs water, the material will expand and get spongy. It is possible to use QURKIES in the bath, but it is recommended to keep them in for a short time and to dry them afterwards. Please note the some discoloration (darker) can occur from bathing.

Are QURKIES garden-proof?

QURKIES can be used in the garden, but note that cork is a natural material. Leaving them in direct sunlight for a long period will make them shrink which affects the fitting. Note also that some discoloration (lighter) can occur under the influence of UV light.

Are QURKIES available in colors?

QURKIES likes to emphasize the natural beauty of cork. We also understand that colors are an important factor in toys. That is why we are working on different pieces with

all natural colors. In the meantime, you can color QURKIES yourself with felt tip pens. We advise to use these: <http://www.oekonorm.com/felt-tip-pens>

What is cork?

Cork is an amazing material. To harvest cork, the bark of the Quercus Suber (the cork oak) is taken off like a jacket, which then grows back due to a unique natural process. The tree is not cut down. Harvesting cork is a very delicate process and completely done by hand. A cork tree can be harvested for the first time at the age of 25 years, and after that only once in every 9 years. A mature cork tree grows about 2 QURKIES per day.

Is cork eco-friendly?

Cork is one of the most eco-friendly materials on this planet. The cork bark is like a sponge for CO2. Stripped cork trees absorb 4x more CO2 because of the harvesting. The annual CO2 absorption by the cork forests is equivalent to the emissions of 3.000.000 cars. Cork forests are therefore called 'The lung of the Mediterranean'.

Is cork sustainable?

Cork forests are one of the few examples of fully sustainable forestry exploitation. They are economically sustainable, due to the high market value of cork. QURKIES help the preservation of cork. In the wine industry natural cork stoppers are more and more

replaced with plastic. QURKIES does the exact opposite; replacing plastic with cork.

Is cork recyclable?

Cork can be very well recycled. QURKIES are made from the waste and leftovers from the cork stoppers production. Also recycled cork can be used to produce QURKIES. Cork recycle points vary per country. In The Netherlands these collection points are scarce. That is why QURKIES plans to open up one.

How is cork processed?

From the cork bark, everything is used. Harvested cork is first dried in the Mediterranean sun and cleaned. The virgin core part of the bark is used for natural stoppers. The outer layers and leftover material get grinded and pressed together to form a new cork block again. This is called agglomerated cork and that is what QURKIES

are made of. All the dust particles remaining from the machining is used as a source of energy to heat the factory.

Where do QURKIES come from?

QURKIES is based in The Netherlands, but has his production partner in Portugal. Portugal is the cork capital with a coverage of 80% of the global cork industry. The cork plantations are growing with 3% each year. The cork oak is the National tree of Portugal.

Is it important to preserve cork?

Growing cork is not fast money. Other trees (like Pine) are therefore increasing for plantations. This has a negative effect on the cork business and does not help with the forest fires. Cork forests called 'the Montados' are one of the 14 world biodiversity sanctuaries. They play a crucial role in protecting the hydrological ecosystem

and they are the home to an enormous variety of species.

Are QURKIES allowed by Duplo®?

QURKIES are really something else. The cork material and design of the blocks are fundamentally different. Therefore it is easy for people to distinct QURKIES from Duplo®.