THE AISLACOR COMPANY PRODUCES INSULATING PANELS RECYCLING EUCALIPTUS BARK WASTE IN CHILE

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One of the innovative circular economy companies operating in Chile and promoted by the *Pais Circular* Magazine is the startup Aislacor, which produces insulating panels based on eucalyptus bark waste.

The article in *Pais Circular* presenting Aislacor explains that the innovation arose from the opportunity to give a positive outlet to the daily trucks of eucalyptus bark that were left lying around at the worksite of the Forestal Collicura company, part of the Esquerré Group that operates in the Concepción area of the Biobío Region.

The idea of producing thermal insulation from eucalyptus bark materialized in 2017 as the result of fifteen years of research conducted by the Esquerré Group in collaboration with the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and the University of Concepción. This innovation arose from the search for a solution for the use of eucalyptus bark, taking also into account that today 99 percent of insulation materials come from fossil sources such as expanded polystyrene, rock wool, and fiberglass, all of which have a high carbon footprint and lack a focus on sustainability.

Aislacor, a startup based in the Biobío Region of Chile, led by José Luis Sfeir, is emerging as an innovative solution in the field of sustainable building materials. The insulating panel, developed from natural eucalyptus bark fibers, stands out from its competitors for being a sustainable solution and for its versatility in a wide range of applications.

This insulation material is made using byproducts of the forestry industry, specifically eucalyptus bark, which is processed to create an efficient and environmentally friendly insulating panel. This production method not only reduces industrial waste but also decreases dependence on fossil-based materials, contributing to a smaller carbon footprint in construction.

Thanks to its superior technical properties, Aislacor is an excellent alternative for thermal and acoustic insulation in various parts of a building:

- *Roofs:* Installed on roofs, Aislacor helps maintain stable indoor temperatures, reducing heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter.
- *Floors:* Placed under the floor covering, it provides sound insulation, reducing noise transmission between levels and improving the building's energy efficiency.
- *Walls*: In walls, it acts as a thermal and acoustic barrier, improving interior comfort and contributing to the building's energy efficiency.
- *SIP Panels*: Compatible with structural insulated panel (SIP) systems, Aislacor enhances the insulating properties of these systems, offering an efficient and sustainable construction solution.
- *Doors:* Used in door cores, it improves acoustic and thermal insulation, contributing to the comfort and energy efficiency of spaces.

Aislacor is composed of 90% natural fibers and 10% binder, making it an eco-friendly solution that utilizes byproducts from eucalyptus chip production. This composition reduces the carbon footprint and promotes a circular economy by reusing materials that would otherwise be discarded. Compared to traditional insulation materials such as expanded polystyrene, fiberglass, and mineral wool, Aislacor offers significant improvements:

- *Thermal and acoustic insulation:* It provides excellent thermal insulation, helping to maintain stable indoor temperatures and reducing the need for air conditioning systems. Furthermore, its fibrous structure contributes to a significant reduction in noise, improving acoustic comfort in living spaces.
- *Humidity regulation*: Thanks to the air permeability of its natural fibers, Aislacor helps regulate indoor humidity, preventing the formation of mold and mildew, and contributing to a healthier environment.
- *Ease of handling and safety*: Unlike some insulation materials that can be irritating or difficult to handle, Aislacor is easy to handle due to its natural fiber composition. It is non-toxic and non-irritating, facilitating installation without risks to workers' health. Furthermore, it is mold-resistant and fire-resistant, increasing the safety of buildings.

With these characteristics, Aislacor positions itself as a superior alternative to traditional insulation in construction, offering advantages in terms of sustainability, energy efficiency, comfort, and safety. Its use contributes to greener and healthier buildings, aligned with current trends in sustainable construction. Aislacor received first place in an innovation competition held by the Chilean Wood Corporation (Corma), where 11 projects related to research in the forestry and timber industry competed.

The company is in the midst of implementation, and the product technology, developed in conjunction with the University of Concepción, is already licensed for use in Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina. The company believes its innovation has great potential in the construction industry and emphasizes its significant impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, currently one of the world's major challenges. Aislacor believes its project is scalable globally due to the impressive amount of waste bark available in many eucalyptus-growing countries, such as Australia and Brazil. Producing insulation using discarded eucalyptus bark could generate a paradigm shift in the global production of insulating materials.

País Circular is an extraordinary online editorial project that promotes the circular economy and the development of sustainable businesses. It is a portal published by the Circular Sustainability Agency, with the collaboration of numerous professionals, companies, and institutions committed to environmental innovation and the circular economy. The directory allows users to find specialists in various productive sectors, with experience in waste management, renewable energy, and more.

The *País Circular* Portal is a unique tool for the publication of numerous highly relevant ongoing innovations based on the circular economy and developed by various stakeholders across different regions of Chile. The objective of Circular Country is to strengthen, deepen, and guide media coverage of topics related to sustainable development. This initiative serves as a replicable model for all countries interested in promoting and amplifying the impact of national innovative practices both domestically and internationally.

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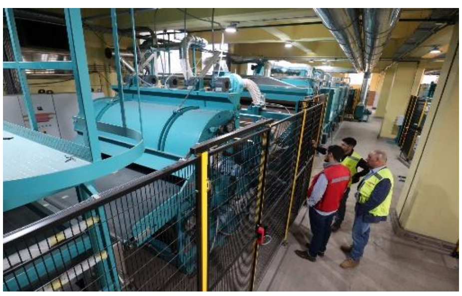
Aislacor article in paiscircular.cl

Aislacor.cl website



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