

UNIT 5. WOOD

5.1.- WOOD

Wood is a raw material, we obtain it from trees.

5.1.1- Properties of wood:

- Wood is a hard material
- a little less dense than water
- good electrical and thermal insulator
- it has good sound conductivity.
- good mechanical resistance
- it is a porous material
- it is renewable, biodegradable and recyclable.



5.1.2.- Disadvantages of wood:

- Logs are wet, we have to dry them before use, to prevent warping.
- Wood is porous, it can absorb water and then it expands. We have to coat it with waterproof paint or varnish.
- Wood is attacked by insects and fungus. We need to protect it with paint, varnish or insecticide.



5.2.- TYPES OF WOOD

There are two main types, natural wood and artificial wood.

5,2,1.- Natural wood

- Hard wood: from deciduous trees, like oak, beech, or cherry. It is hard and resistant. It is used for furniture, boats, beams, wooden floors, musical instruments, etc.
- Soft wood: from conifers, like pine or fir and poplar (not a conifer). It is less hard and resistant than hard wood, and so, it is more easy to work with. Used for furnitures, boxes, paper, etc.

5,2,2.-Wood derivatives or artificial wood

It is made from leftovers, there are a lot of sizes and finishes, it is nor attacked by parasites, its cheaper than natural wood and we save trees. Types of wood derivatives:

- plywood: thin sheets of wood glued and compressed together. Used for furniture, doors, packing, etc.
- chipboard: wood chips glued and compressed together. Used for furnitures, panels, packing, etc.
- Fiberboard or MDF: from milled wood chips compressed and glued. Used for furnitures, cabinets, etc.
- Hardboard: from wood leftovers. Used for cupboards lining.

