

RECP Best Practices Catalogue

Recovery of vegetable leathers waste

Developed within the framework of MED TEST II



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



The SwitchMed Programme is
funded by the European Union

Best Practice - Recovery of vegetable leathers waste

SECTOR:	Leather
Branch:	Manufacture of footwear
CATEGORY	Technology upgrade/Eco-innovation
APPLICABILITY	Process

COMPANY SIZE	509 Full-time Employees
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Description of the Problem (Base Scenario):

The annual consumption of 'vegetable tanned' leather is about 7,000 m², which results in a waste rate of 15% (due to the remaining pieces after the cutting of soles). Thus, there is a discarding of 1,050 m² of vegetable tanned leather put in landfills.

Description of the Solution



This measure requires to purchase of a grinder and presses to manufacture the plates and to set up a room for the preparation and mixing of the crushed materials with the resins.

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Economic Gains

Recovery of 1,050 m² of waste vegetable leathers and transformation into sheets of inserts and insoles.

In total, the anticipated savings following the introduction of this option can reach € 18,000.

The gains are estimated at 33%

Environmental Gains

If we proceed to recover this vegetable leather waste, we reduce our solid waste by 3,150 kg/year, equivalent to 15% of the leather used

Health and Safety Impact



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Capital Investments & Financial Indicators

Total cost of investment: € 45,000 (includes the cost of the grinder: € 6,000, the cost of the press: € 33,000, the cost of the mixer: € 5,000)

•Time for Return on Investment: 2.5 years

Supplier Information	Local
Other Aspects	none
Implementation	The company has bought a grinder and is doing production tests for the plates.



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