MANUFACTURING PROCESS

The production of CFB involves the following steps:
1. Soaking of dried husk in tap water for 24 to 48 hours
2. Decorticating of husk to produce fibers
3. Soaking of fibers in separate dipping tank for 2 days to remove the extractives
4. Draining of the fibers
5. Mixing the required amount of fiber, cement and water in the blending machine
6. Mat-forming using wooden form box and plywood cauls lined with plastic sheets
7. Pressing the mat to the desired thickness for 24 hours using the hydraulic press machine
8. Fillet-stacking for air drying/conditioning
9. Drying and conditioning of the boards
10. Trimming/sizing of the boards

EQUIPMENT/MACHINERY

The major equipment used in the manufacture of CFB are all fabricated locally except the lifter and include the following:
1. Decorticating machine
2. Hydraulic press
3. Blending machine
4. Trimming machine
5. Lifter

For more information, please contact:

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PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

**Coconut Fiber-Cement Board (CFB)** is a panel manufactured from the mixture of fibrous materials like coconut coir or shredded woody portion of coconut tree and Portland cement at a ratio of 60-70% cement to 30 - 40% fiber by weight. It is made by forming the cement-fiber mixture into mats and pressing them to the desired thickness.

Research studies conducted at PCA-ZRC have shown that CFB panels have good strength properties and high dimensional stability when soaked in water (water absorption of 32% and thickness swelling of 4.2%) surpassing the minimum requirements set by PHILSA-Standard 105-1975. It has low thermal conductivity (k-value of 0.90 W/mk) which indicates its excellent insulation properties, thus it can be used as roofing materials even without ceiling. Flame test showed that, while the board can be burned, it is rather slow with minimal smoke emission.

Exposure test of paint-coated CFB roof sheets has demonstrated their capability to withstand the deleterious effect of weathering found in actual service condition.

USES OF CFB

CFB can replace traditional construction materials such as tiles, bricks, plywood, asbestos and cement hollow blocks.

It can be used for or as a component in the fabrication of furniture (tables, chairs, desks, etc.), cabinets, boxes and vases.