

COEXIST WITH NATURE



www.chukumusa.com



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What is Chukum?

The name Chukum comes from the tree "Havardia albicans," which is found in the Yucatán Peninsula and is characterized by being a semi-hard, spiny wood tree. The tannins that give color to our finishes are extracted from the bark of this tree.

This extract has been used since ancient times, as the Maya constructed and painted their pyramids and tanned their homes with the resin from this tree, continuing through the colonial period when it was an essential part of the materials used to create their rustic cement. It provides a natural cooling effect to shield from heat and it's also naturally waterproof.

The technique of using the resin from the Chukum tree in the Yucatán Peninsula dates back to the Mayan era, but this technique was revived and perfected by architects responsible for the restoration of traditional haciendas over 20 years ago around the region, bringing them new life.

The material was initially brought into modern architecture Yucatán through the involvement of architects who became engaged with this finish, its esthetic and its advantages. The traditional extraction of Chukum has been a coveted and handed down technique with many variations in its recipe over time, transmitted among the construction community due to its preferred use in modern architecture. Today, this technique is used in the Yucatán Peninsula to provide a natural and extraordinary finish to walls, ceilings, floors, pools, fountains, water mirrors, and a myriad of elements based on cement.



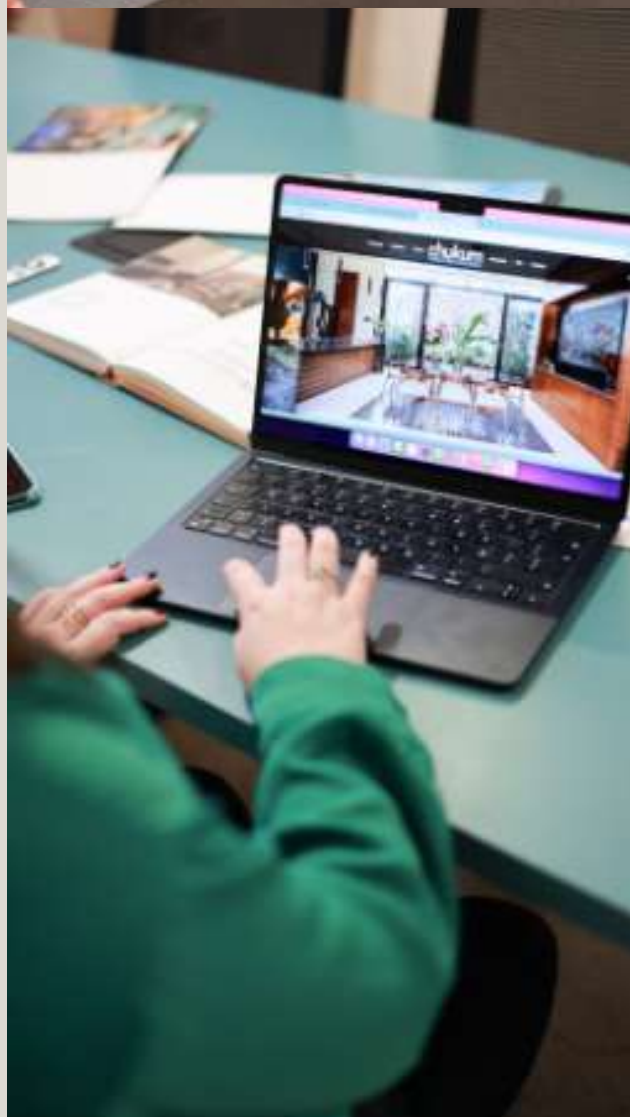
About Us

At Chukum, we take great pride in our commitment to sustainability and the rich cultural heritage of the Yucatán Peninsula. Our company is unique because we grow our own Chukum trees specifically for the production of this remarkable resin. Instead of cutting down the trees, we carefully shave off the outer layers of the bark to extract the resin, ensuring that the tree remains healthy and continues to thrive.

This sustainable practice is vital to our mission. The bark naturally regenerates within a year, allowing us to harvest the resin without harming the tree or depleting the forest. Since our inception in 2009, we have been the original fabricator of Chukum material, and we were the first company to commercialize its sale.

What sets us apart is that we have our own factory dedicated to the production of Chukum. This allows us to maintain control over the entire process, from harvesting to processing, ensuring that we implement sustainable practices at every stage. Our goal is to honor the traditions of our ancestors while also addressing modern ecological concerns, providing high-quality products that reflect both beauty and responsibility.

We are thrilled to be sharing this special product with the world, working with some of the most renowned architects, designers and builders.





WATER **chukum**

Chukum Water is the extract from the bark of the Chukum tree, composed of resins and tannins dissolved in water. It contains all the natural properties of the finish.

Available in **5.28 gal (20 L)**

Yield: **107.63 SF (10 m²)**



BASE **chukum**

The perfect mixture of refined powder extracted from the Yucatán region where the tree is native to. This blend of limestone and white cement reacts with Chukum resin to give us a solid and natural finish.

Available in **44 lb (20 kg)**

Yield: **35.52 SF (3.3 m²)**



EXTRA - FINE **chukum**

Chukum Extra Fine Paste is a cement-based coating, ideal for polished finishes.

Available in **44 lb (20 kg)**

Yield: **86.11 SF (8 m²)**



CANKAB Pigment

Natural pigmentation alternatives. Made from Yucatán soil, it is added to the Chukum finish mixture to provide different natural shades.

Available in **22 lb (10 kg)**

Yield: **107.63 SF (10 m²)**

Colors: **Red and Brown.**



ADIKUM Additive

Concrete additive used as an adhesion bridge between the plaster finish and the Chukum mixture. It is applied with a brush or roller.

Available in **5.28 gal and 1 gal (20 L and 4 L)**

Yield: **861.11 SF (80 m²)**



CHUKUM TIIN Pigment

Liquid black pigment. Vinyl-acrylic paint (water-based). Available in 250 g.

Available in **8.81 oz (250 gr)**

Yield: **35.52 SF (3.3 m²)**



Colors

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Base





Chukum
Natural

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Chukum
Silver



Chukum
Cankab
Brown



Chukum
Cankab
Red



Chukum
Black



Chukum Greenish Blue



Chukum Olive Green



Chukum Tulum Blue



Chukum Pigment

Enjoy our new colors between blues and greens, the mineral pigments, where the colors are incorporated into the base of chukum. And ask for any color you want to incorporate into your designs, which we can manufacture so that you can present unique and unrepeatable projects.



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Chukum Pigment

The pigments come in
a variety of colors.

APPLICATION PROCESS OF CHUKUM BASE

The application process of Chukum Base requires that surfaces are properly prepared and specific steps are followed to ensure a quality finish..

Surface Preparation

1

Inspect the surface: The surface to receive the Chukum finish should have a rough texture or stucco finish. Ensure that the area to be treated is level, free of impurities, cracks, paints, or any material that may affect the adhesion of the Chukum.

2

Pre-hydration: It is crucial to moisten the surface with water, ensuring that the surface maintains a slow absorption capacity.

Chukum Application

1

Bonding application: Apply the bonding across the entire area with a roller or brush to enhance the adhesion of the Chukum. Do not allow the bonding to dry completely before applying the mixture.

2

Chukum mixture: Combine the Chukum Base with Chukum Water just before use. It is suggested to use between 5 and 6 liters per bag. The consistency of the mixture will depend on the texture required during the application process.

*If using Cankab pigment, this would be the step to mix Cankab into the natural Chukum mixture, not exceeding 1 bag of Cankab for every 2 bags of natural Chukum to avoid weakening the material.

3

Spread the mixture: Cover the entire area evenly and allow it to dry partially before proceeding with the polishing process.

4

Polishing or second coat: Hydrate again with Chukum water, disperse it with a float or sponge, and use a metal trowel or spatula to compact and smooth the surface until achieving the desired finish.



Finishing and Maintenance

1

Curing: It is recommended to keep the finish hydrated for the following 7 days to prevent crack formation, similar to the curing process of concrete. In the case of pools, it is advisable to fill it with water between 24 and 48 hours after application, for at least 15 days.

2

Optional sealing: Although Chukum does not require it, in high-traffic or usage areas, we recommend applying sealers such as waxes or water repellents for added protection.

Special Considerations

- **Compatible surfaces:** The Chukum Base is ideal for concrete or stucco.
- **Colors and pigments:** Pigments can be added for aesthetic variety, although color production may require minimum orders. It is advisable to seal the surface when using pre-mixed products.
- **Common issues:** Cracks and blisters may occur due to improper handling, lack of hydration, lack of compaction, or use of incompatible sealers. Be sure to follow the instructions carefully to avoid these problems.



Colors

EXTRA-FINE
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Extra-Fine Chukum Coral Pink



Extra-Fine Chukum Olive



Extra-Fine Chukum Silver



Extra-Fine Chukum White



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APPLICATION PROCESS OF EXTRA-FINE CHUKUM

The application process of Extra-Fine Chukum requires that surfaces are properly prepared and specific steps are followed to ensure a quality finish.

Surface Preparation

1

Surface inspection: The surface receiving the Extra-Fine Chukum finish should ideally have a smooth texture to optimize application. Ensure that the area to be treated is even, level and free of impurities or cracks that could compromise the adhesion of the Extra-Fine Chukum.

Application of Extra-Fine Chukum

1

Bonding application: Apply the bonding over the entire area using a roller or brush, which will enhance the adhesion of the Extra-Fine Chukum. Make sure to allow the bonding to dry completely before applying the mixture to reduce moisture marks or imperfections in the final finish.

2

Extra-Fine Chukum mixture: Mix the Extra-Fine Chukum with Chukum Water just before use, recommending between 5-6 liters of water per bag. The consistency of the mixture will depend on the desired texture during application.

*If using Cankab pigment, this would be the step to mix Cankab into the Extra-Fine Chukum, not exceeding 1 bag of Cankab for every 2 bags of Extra-Fine Chukum to avoid weakening the material's consistency.

3

Spread the mixture: Evenly apply the mixture over the entire area and allow it to dry before continuing with the polishing process. This material can be applied once the first coat is dry and allows for hardening.

4

Polishing: Use a metal trowel or spatula to smooth the surface until achieving the desired finish.

Finishing and Maintenance

Sealing: The Extra-Fine Chukum requires sealing; it is suggested to apply sealers such as wax, acrylic varnish, silicone, or any water-repellent material.

Special Considerations

- Compatible surfaces: The Extra-Fine Chukum is ideal for surfaces such as concrete, durock, drywall, and panels. It is not recommended for floors and pools.
- Colors and pigments: Pigments can be incorporated to offer aesthetic variety, although color production may require minimum orders.
- Common issues: Bubbles and trowel marks may occur due to improper handling, lack of compaction, or the use of incompatible sealers. Be sure to follow the instructions carefully to avoid this.



Chukum USA

Ancient Mayan Plaster

Based in Merida, MX & Miami, FL.

For more information and to order

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- Available For Local Miami Pickup or Shipping Nationwide.
- Specialty Colors Available Upon Request.
- Contact us with project details and we can help assess material needs.

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