



Manufacturer of fine brushes since 1935

# BÜRSTENHAUS REDECKER



## BRUSHING UP YOUR KNOWLEDGE

What puts out good brushes really



**Redecker brushes are manufactured, as they have been for decades, primarily from native woods, bristles, hair or vegetable fibres. Different natural materials are used to suit various purposes. Synthetic fibres or plastics are rarely used, only for special requirements.**

### **BRUSH BODIES**

The body of the brush can be made of different types of domestic woods. For the main part, woods such as beech, oak, pearwood, and ash are used. Depending on the intended future purpose, the woods are either processed in an untreated state, or oiled, or waxed.



## THE BRISTLES

This is what we call the plant fibres and animal hair that make up the functional part of our brush. Each type of material used for the bristle portion, or „stocking“ of the brush, is cleaned, boiled, and combed in a process spanning several steps. We call this treatment 'finishing.' Depending on the application, we use the following materials:

### BRISTLES FROM ANIMAL HAIR

#### Bristle

The 'hair' from the domestic pig or the wild boar is called bristles. Bristles are significantly thicker and, therefore; harder at the root than at the tip. Depending on the use, hard or soft brushes can be made depending on whether the lower or upper part of the bristles is used.



**Horse hair** is a significant material for the brush maker. Hairs from the tail and the mane are used. The strong hair from the horse's tail is very suitable for the manufacturing of brushes used for cleaning cobwebs, brooms, and for hand brushes. The soft hair from the mane is ideal, among other things, for shoe polishing brushes.

The classic bristle for shaving brushes is **badger hair**. It has rounded tips so it does not irritate or damage the sensitive skin on the face. Its fineness and density ensure a firm, substantial foam. Only the top quality crest hair from the badger's back is used in our brushes.

#### Goat hair

The hair of the Chinese long-haired goat is by far the softest material in our brushes. Its very fine and dense hair is used in dusting brushes, cosmetic brushes, and also hairbrushes for babies.



## BRISTLE MATERIAL MADE FROM PLANT FIBRES

**Tampico fibre** is obtained from the leaf ribs of a type of agave which grows on the high plains of Mexico. It has a high degree of shape retention and is used for scrubbing brushes, washing brushes, and anywhere high heat resistance is required.

**Arenga** is obtained from the leaf fibres of the Asian sugar palm. Its natural color is dark grey to black. Arenga is finer and softer than other palm fibres, but is nevertheless tough and elastic. Thanks to its lack of sensitivity to wetness, it is ideal for brushes for outdoor use.

**Coco** is obtained from the fruit of the coconut palm. The fibres lie between the external leathery shell and the actual coconut. They can grow up to 30 cm in length, and are used as bristles for brooms, brushes, and hand brushes. As braided cords, coconut fibres are also made into mats.

**Sisal** derives from the leaf fibres of the Mexican sisal palm. Its resistance makes it ideal for the manufacturing of mats and massage gloves. Usually it is not used for the bristles of brushes.



### Rice straw

The name 'rice straw' is somewhat misleading, as the plant from which it is obtained has nothing to do with rice. 'Rice straw' comes from sorghum, a type of cereal which is native to an area from the sub-tropics to the Balkans. Sorghum straw for the manufacturing of 'rice straw' is obtained from the upper part of the entire plant, including the panicle. In Germany, the 'rice straw broom' became known in the 1960s thanks to guest workers who emigrated from the Balkan countries.

### Rice root

In just the same way as rice straw, the name 'rice root' is misleading for this particular fibre. The material for rice root brushes does not come from a rice plant, but instead from a grass type called zatacon that grows as a wild plant in the Mexican highlands. The incorrect name probably derives from the Spanish word 'raiz', which means 'root'. In fact, the extremely tough plant fibre comes from the finely corrugated roots of this plant and is used for very hard scouring brushes.



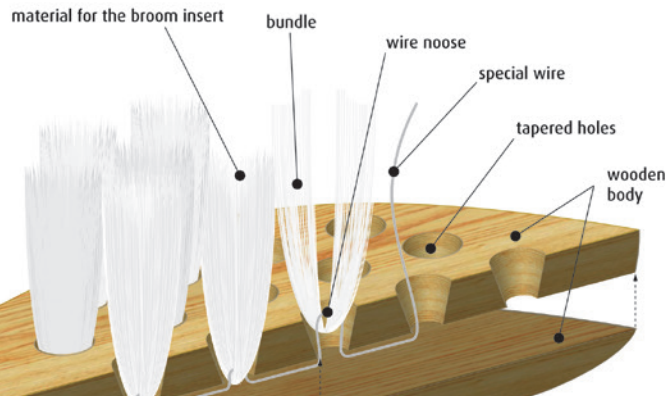
**Palmyra fibre** comes from the leaf ribs of palmyra palms which are found in India and Sri Lanka. The core from the stem of this palm provides the starch-containing foodstuff, sago. Palmyra fibre is, like all plant fibres, water-resistant and is used mainly for street-sweeping brooms. However, it is usually blended with other plant fibres to make union fibre, a mixture which is used above all for vegetable scrubbing brushes, mops, and scrubbers because of its hardness and resilience.

## THIS IS HOW THE MANUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INSERTED HAIR IS DONE:

The wooden body of the brush is divided into halves: the base, into which the stocking (bristles and related fill material) is pulled, has conical holes. The top has none since it is later put into place to hide the pull-in wire.

First, the wire is passed through the first hole of the brush and a loop is made for the first bundle of stocking. Then, the brushmaker must grasp the correct amount of stocking material in order to be able to fill out the the individual holes in the body of the brush. For this purpose, a brush compartment machine serves to divide the material into uniform bundles.

The material is laid into the wire loop which is then pulled into the body of the brush together with the stocking. In this



way, the hole is filled. The wire is inserted into the holes in a certain order and the body of the brush is thus filled with material, loop by loop. After every finished row, the material must be cut to the proper length.

So it continues, hole by hole, until the brush body is fully threaded. At the end, the wire is stitched up so that it cannot come undone. The top is screwed on and the brush is finished!





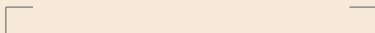
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## TRADITION AND MODERNITY IN HARMONY

The first handcrafted Redecker brushes were produced in 1935. A lot has changed since then. Today, the name Redecker stands, as it has for many years, for an ideal combination of natural quality, function, and design. It lives from our very own blend of inventiveness, sound craftsmanship, and creativity.

For further information, you may contact us by phone **+ 49 (0) 5423-9464-0** or email at **info@redecker.de**! Also visit us on the internet at **www.redecker.de**! In addition to tips and ideas, you will also find a catalogue that allows you to browse through all available Redecker products.



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