



Palapa / Makuti Roofs

What is a Palapa/Makuti Roof?

A palapa / makuti roof is a structure made from dried palm leaves. These leaves are knotted and allow air to circulate underneath.

This is a typical type of roof covering, in many African, South East Asian, Central American and other tropical countries.



Positive Factors

Positives

- Traditional
- Natural
- Eco friendly
- Flexible design
- Community support
- Energy efficient
- Good ventilation



Hazards and Maintenance

Hazards

- Easy to catch fire
- Fire will spread easily and quickly
- Easily damaged by animals (e.g. rats / monkeys)
- Can decay and decompose easily
- High winds/storms can damage the roof



Maintenance

- Harder to maintain, due to wear and tear
- Leaks are common problem
- Must be maintained and possibly protected by e.g., fire resistance sprays
- Roof to be replaced approximately every 5-15 years depending on the material used, the manufacturer's instructions and climatic conditions



Control Measures

Consider using a non-combustible alternative to palapa, but if this is not an option, the following control measures should be considered:

- Have the palapa / makuti roof sprayed with a fire retardant by a professional, annually or as specified by a fire expert
- If the sleeping accommodation has a palapa / makuti roof, the building must have an audible fire alarm installed
- Suitable fire detection depending on the building type
- Emergency plan must be kept updated
- Staff must be trained in fire safety measures and evacuation procedures, and practice this in regular drills (once per season)
- If you are planning to build a new hotel or refurbish an existing building with this type of roofing, please contact the Health & Safety team directly (contact details on page 7)



Non-combustible alternative's

Below are some alternative materials you could consider instead of palapa / makuti

Artificial palapa / makuti

This has a very similar look to the original. It is more durable, more fire resistant and retains the traditional atmosphere of the buildings.



Other roofing options

Metal Sheeting



Clay Roof



UPVC Sheeting



Roof Shingles



Contact

For further information contact the Safety & Risk Accommodation Team.

groupsafety-accommodationaudits@tui.com

For detailed information on artificial palapa / makuti roofs, we suggest contacting a supplier in your area for these types of roofing.

For Example:



FIBER ROOFING
South African Manufacturer & Exporter of Thatch Products

Contact & Postal Info:
Tel: +27-11-903-9204
Fax: +27-86-604-3155
Web: www.fiberthatch.com
E-mail: info@fiberroofing.com
P. O. Box 639, Alberton, 1450

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