

# Apple Leather As A Sustainable Material

Avinash Dipak Kuwar<sup>1</sup>, Omkar Bheema Navale<sup>2</sup>, Tejas Zumar Dattir<sup>3</sup>,  
Rohit Pravin Patil<sup>4</sup>, A. E. Sonawne<sup>5</sup>, G. D. Ahire<sup>6</sup>, P. G. Chavan<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1234</sup>Students, Department of Civil Engineering,

<sup>56</sup>Lecturers, Department of Civil Engineering,

<sup>7</sup>Head of Department, Department of Civil Engineering,

Guru Gobind Singh Polytechnic, Nashik, Maharashtra, India

**Abstract:** *The rapid growth of industrialization and urbanization has led to a significant increase in the use of non-biodegradable materials such as plastics and synthetic polymers. These materials, while cost-effective and durable, have caused severe environmental issues including pollution, landfill accumulation, and harm to ecosystems. As a result, there is an urgent need to develop sustainable, eco-friendly alternatives that can reduce environmental impact while maintaining functional performance. This report focuses on apple leather as an innovative and sustainable material derived from agro-industrial waste, specifically apple peels, cores, and pulp generated during juice and food processing. Apple leather is a bio-based material that mimics the properties of traditional leather and certain plastic sheets. It is produced by drying and processing apple waste, followed by blending with natural or biodegradable binding agents to form a flexible and durable sheet. This process not only helps in waste management but also reduces the dependency on petroleum-based products. The material is lightweight, biodegradable, and has good tensile strength, making it suitable for a variety of applications. The study explores the manufacturing process of apple leather in detail, including raw material collection, processing techniques, and finishing methods. It also examines its physical, chemical, and mechanical properties such as flexibility, durability, water resistance, and thermal behavior. Based on these properties, the report evaluates its potential use in the construction industry, where it can be applied in interior design elements, wall coverings, decorative panels, and as a layer in insulation systems. Its adaptability and aesthetic appeal make it a promising material for sustainable building practices. Furthermore, the report highlights the use of apple leather as an alternative to plastic sheets in packaging applications. Conventional plastic packaging contributes heavily to environmental degradation due to its non-biodegradable nature. Apple leather sheets, being biodegradable and eco-friendly, can serve as an effective replacement for certain types of plastic packaging, especially in low-load and flexible packaging requirements. This substitution can significantly reduce plastic waste and promote the use of renewable resources. The advantages of apple leather include its sustainable origin, reduced carbon footprint, contribution to circular economy, and eco-friendly disposal. However, the report also discusses certain limitations such as relatively higher production cost, limited large-scale availability, and the need for improved strength and water resistance for broader applications. Future scope includes technological advancements in material processing, enhancement of durability, and increased commercialization. In conclusion, apple leather represents a promising step towards sustainable material innovation. Its application in both construction and packaging industries demonstrates its versatility and potential to replace harmful synthetic materials. The adoption of such eco-friendly alternatives can contribute significantly to environmental conservation and support the global movement towards sustainable development and green engineering practices.*

**Keywords:** Apple Leather, Sustainable Material, Biodegradable, Apple Waste, Eco-friendly, Waste Utilization, Plastic Alternative, Green Material, Interior Application, Waste Management



## **I. INTRODUCTION**

In today's world, the use of sustainable and eco-friendly materials is becoming very important due to increasing environmental problems. Apple leather is an innovative material made from apple waste such as peels and pulp. It is biodegradable, renewable, and helps in reducing pollution. This material supports the concept of waste management and circular economy by converting waste into useful products. Apple leather can be used as an alternative to plastic in various applications, especially in interior design and construction, making it a green and sustainable solution.

## **II. PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Plastic pollution is one of the major environmental issues faced worldwide as it is non- biodegradable and harmful to nature. Large amounts of apple waste are generated from industries and households, which creates disposal problems and increases environmental degradation.

There is a lack of sustainable and eco-friendly materials to replace plastic. Hence, there is a need to develop an alternative material that is biodegradable, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly by utilizing waste resources.

## **III. METHODOLOGY**

The process of making apple leather starts with the collection of apple peels and pulp. The collected waste is cleaned properly and then ground into a fine paste. This paste is heated to remove excess moisture and improve consistency. Cornstarch and glycerine are added to the mixture to enhance binding and flexibility. The prepared mixture is then spread evenly to form a thin sheet and allowed to dry. After drying, the final apple leather sheet is obtained, which can be used for various applications.

## **IV. CONCLUSION**

The project successfully demonstrates that apple waste can be converted into a useful and eco- friendly material. Apple leather is biodegradable, cost-effective, and has good potential to replace plastic in certain applications. It supports the concept of waste-to-wealth and contributes to environmental protection. This material can be effectively used in interior design and other fields, promoting sustainability and a greener future.

## **V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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## **REFERENCES**

This project is based on information collected from various research papers, journals, books, and reliable internet sources. Previous studies on sustainable materials and apple leather were also referred to for better understanding. These references helped in gaining knowledge and successfully completing the project.

