



COLORANTS
AND PRINTING INKS

SHIMBER



SHIMBER: SHIMMERING BIO-BASED COATINGS FROM WOOD



Shimber Oy, FinnCERES (Aalto University) | Finland



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Shimmering coatings made from wood-based materials create bio-based, microplastic-free surfaces for design, fashion, and architecture.

The shimmer in cosmetics, packaging and fashion normally comes from mined mica or plastic glitter — the latter now restricted under EU rules on intentionally added microplastics. The Aalto University spin-off Shimber produces the same effect with no pigment at all. A thin coating of cellulose nanoparticles extracted from wood pulp self-assembles into a helical nanostructure that creates iridescent colour the way butterfly wings and peacock feathers do, shifting with the viewing angle. The coating is bio-based, biodegradable, microplastic-free and material-agnostic, applied to wood, metal, plastics and textiles. Born from the Shimmering Wood project at Aalto University within FinnCERES.

