

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Dacia Delgado - Ann Sacks  
[dacia.delgado@annsacks.com](mailto:dacia.delgado@annsacks.com)  
1.800.278.8453

## **REMARKABLE NEW MESQUITE TILE FOR ANN SACKS OFFERS A LASTING ORGANIC BEAUTY**

PORTLAND, Ore. (April 21, 2006) - Ann Sacks recently announced an exceptional new line of tile composed entirely of wood. Aptly named Mesquite and crafted entirely from mesquite wood harvested in Texas, the tile is truly extraordinary in its durability and natural style, and it offers an unmatched character and natural beauty to any setting. It is unlike anything currently on the market and is certain to set a standard for homeowners who want a product that is organic and beautiful but also easy to live with and care for.

“Because it is a natural wood, it has an amazing earthy quality, yet it is very contemporary in feel,” said John Hart, chief merchandising officer, Ann Sacks & Kallista. “Also, because it is such a dense wood, it has minimum warpage and absorption. It holds up extremely well over time, taking on a distinctive patina and personality.”

Because mesquite trees thrive in harsh, dry conditions, they are known for their solid and resilient nature, as well as for their handsome grain. Also, because it is such a dense wood, it historically has been difficult to harvest and was therefore not widely available to consumers.



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Ann Sacks has developed the expertise to transform this wood into a refined and exquisite tiling option.

“Mesquite has a very warm appearance with a beautiful open grain,” continued Hart. “It has a reddish tone that is reminiscent to fresh teak, but with a contrasting black color underneath that really gives it personality. It also cuts beautifully, creating a hard, clean tile that doesn’t splinter.”

The Mesquite tile is available in three finishes: a natural finish with no UV protection that will ultimately turn reddish over time; a natural finish with UV protection that will remain a rich brown color; and a walnut stain that gives the wood a deep chocolate brown color. Because of the unique nature of Mesquite tile, it is not grouted for installation. Instead, it is installed butt-jointed and applied with a strong adhesive such as liquid nails.

Founded in 1981, Ann Sacks offers consumers and trade professionals high-quality tile, stone, plumbing fittings and fixtures, lighting and accessories for the kitchen, bath and home. Based in Portland, Ore., the company is a division of the Kohler Co. Interiors Group that includes Baker Knapp & Tubbs, Inc., Kallista plumbing and McGuire furniture.

Founded in 1873 and headquartered in Kohler, Wis., Kohler Co. is one of America’s oldest and largest privately held companies. Kohler is a global leader in the manufacture of kitchen and bath products, engines and power generation systems, cabinetry, tile and home interiors, and international host to award-winning hospitality and world-class golf destinations.

For additional information regarding Mesquite tile or other Ann Sacks products, consumers may call toll-free 1-800-278-TILE or visit the Ann Sacks website at [www.annsacks.com](http://www.annsacks.com).

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