

R.E.D. project

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Wickerwork basketry

Weaving or sale the objects made of wicker, tree roots, basket splints, corn husks and straw. Manufacture of wicker baskets is most wide-spread; its documentation on the territory of Slovakia goes back as early as the Middle Ages. It was used by craftspeople, sales people, but also in the city households. The quality of wicker products was raised by wickerwork schools and cooperatives emerging from the 1880s. Wickerwork developed mainly at the turn of the 19th and 20th century. There were around 270 qualified and more than 1,000 home wicker people. Wicker with bark (unpeeled or green wicker) was used for weaving or it could be hulled, chipped and boiled before weaving. First the basket bottom was made by weaving a construction in a shape of a cross. Then sticks were stuck around its circumference creating a vertical frame and later sticks for horizontal weave. There are other weaving techniques, though less used, for example coiling.

Wickerwork has a big potential also today – in manufacture of furniture and home accessories.

