

„X-ray check“ for the floor structure



Nobody can look under floors. And most pollutants are invisible. Therefore, GEV takes a close look at all building and installation products. Only if they are absolutely emission-free will they be granted the EMICODE® seal, thus providing reliable guidance for health- and environmentally conscious consumers.

Looking beneath the surface is advisable in every situation of our lives – even in our own four walls. When installing tiles, parquet or other floor coverings, a multitude of ancillary products is used. Various installation materials are concealed under the wear layer. Once installed, these are practically invisible. Nevertheless, they may contain harmful substances that can pollute the air inside the room. If you want to be sure that the materials used for the entire floor structure are low in emissions, you should take a close look or ask a professional foorer for advice. The EMICODE® quality seal for „clean“ building products provides useful guidance.

People spend around 90 percent of their lives in enclosed spaces – the lion’s share of it inside their own four walls. A healthy indoor climate is therefore of vital importance. Regular ventilation is crucial to ensure a constant exchange of air. However, attention should also be paid to the use of low-emission building materials. Even water-based products are not automatically healthy: Low solvent does not always mean free of harmful substances. Adhesives, for instance, can still contain volatile organic substances that pollute the indoor air and have negative effects on the residents’ health.

The Europe-wide recognized quality label EMICODE® helps consumers identify whether all layers of the floor structure are low in emissions. Apart from finishing products like parquet varnishes, also flooring adhesives, levelling compounds (fillers) and primers are used for producing the floor structure. In addition, there are intermediate layers such as underlays and other materials such as joint sealants. If these products have been granted the EMICODE® seal, they are regularly spot-checked for their emission levels.

The eco-label is awarded by Düsseldorf-based GEV (Association for the Control of Emissions in Products for Flooring Installation, Adhesives and Building Materials). Based on test chamber measurements carried out by independent institutes, the products are classified into several categories. The EC1 seal guarantees that the tested building and installation products comply with the world’s strictest emission limits and are particularly low in VOC emissions. EC1-certified products are also used by experienced craftsmen for the installation of flooring. To be on the safe side, it is always worthwhile asking a professional foorer for advice and taking a close look at the packaging. If you look out for the clearly visible quality seal, you can be sure that only building and installation materials enter your home that ensure the greatest possible protection from indoor air pollution and also a high level of environmental compatibility.

More information about the EMICODE® can be found at: www.emicode.com

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Only products complying with the most stringent emission limits are awarded the EMICODE® label. Manufacturers must undertake to produce these products according to high quality standards and subject to strict monitoring to fulfil the EMICODE® requirements at all times. To ensure maximum reliability of the emission values claimed by the manufacturers, the products are regularly submitted to random spot checks by independent, internationally recognized testing institutes. The EMICODE® label is currently used in up to 20 languages. The GEV (Gemeinschaft emissionskontrollierte Verlegewerkstoffe, Klebstoffe und Bauprodukte e.V.) in Düsseldorf has been responsible for EMICODE® since 1997. **Contact:** info@emicode.com