

## Easy-care all-rounder



**You can build on this: Tiles are well suited for all applications and requirements – from the living room to the kitchen and bathroom, from the hallway to the garage. They are not only easy-care but also hard-wearing so that you can enjoy them for many years. And if you use EMICODE®-certified tile adhesives and grouts for their installation, you can be sure of a healthy home free of pollutants.**

Carpeting in the bathroom is just as rare as parquet in the garage – for the simple reason that certain types of flooring require specific uses. With the exception of tiles: they are real all-rounders when it comes to wall and floor application. Whether in the kitchen or bathroom, in the hallway, cellar or on the terrace – tiles are highly functional so that they can be used anywhere in and around the house. And: When using EMICODE®-certified adhesives and grouts for tile installation, you can be sure that no harmful substances will enter the house and ruin your dream of a healthy home.

Compared to other floor coverings, tiles are particularly easy to clean and hygienic. Water and dirt can hardly cause any damage and are easily removed. Furthermore, tiles are extremely hard-wearing: falling objects hardly leave any marks or dents. Classic white is a matter of the past. These days, tiles are available in a wide range of colors, decors and formats. Whether colorful or playful or tone-on-tone – there are all kinds of laying patterns, formats and gloss grades. There are virtually no limits to creative design. Tiles can even imitate the look of wood, which makes them real eye-catchers. The new trend of XXL tiles offers a number of practical advantages: they are installed with a smaller number of joints, which also reduces the required cleaning effort.

If you are afraid of „ceramic coolness“ in your living room, it is advisable to have underfloor heating installed. Ceramic tiles are perfect conductors and quickly transfer the heat from the heating system into the

room. Thanks to bonded installation, there is no separating air layer between the subfloor and the tile. Unlike parquet, laminate or carpet, tiles cannot be loosely laid but must always be firmly glued over the entire surface. This ensures good thermal conductivity and increases the tiles' load-bearing strength and service life. Speaking of load: When choosing tiles, it is important to take the later use of the room into account. The lower wear level in bathrooms, for instance, requires abrasion resistance class 3, while the higher loads in garages caused by cars require resistance class 5. Here's a small tip: When buying tiles, it is better to buy one tenth more material than is required for the number of square meters. This takes the cutting waste into account and ensures sufficient spare material in case of later damage.

Expert preparation of the substrate is of key importance before installing tiles. The substrate should be level, sound, clean, dry and free of adhesive residues. In some cases, a priming coat may be required to ensure a firm bond between substrate and tiles. Inexperienced do-it-yourselfers are advised to start tile installation in the middle of the room and to proceed in parallel rows from the inside to the outside. Tiles that have been cut to size are less noticeable at the edges. A diagonal pattern creates a nice visual effect but is more demanding and should be done by a professional tiler. He knows exactly how to proceed and which products ensure best results.

It is highly recommended to use solvent-free tile adhesives and grouts to ensure a healthy home free of harmful substances. Here, the EMICODE® EC1 seal provides useful guidance. For over 20 years, the seal has been awarded to building and installation products that feature low VOC emissions and do not pollute the indoor air. Independent laboratories carry out the required tests. Regular unannounced spot checks ensure the products' long-term compliance with the limit values. This is a decisive advantage of EMICODE® over other health and environmental certification systems.

**More information about the EMICODE® can be found at: [www.emicode.com](http://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](mailto:info@emicode.com)