

Breathe easy and carefree

Healthy indoor air guaranteed



Just take a deep breath, relax and spend carefree time with your family. To enjoy „clean“ indoor air, healthy building materials should be used – for new-builds but also for renovations. Harmful substances emanating from building materials can pollute the indoor air over a long period of time. If you want to be on the safe side, watch out for quality labels such as the EMICODE® EC1 seal.

People complaining of fatigue or headaches at home and suffering from irritations of the mucous membranes or allergies may find the cause in poor indoor air. Building materials, paints, but also furniture can emit harmful substances and thus pollute the indoor climate. These days, newly built houses are increasingly airtight. As a result, the natural exchange of air is less frequent. This increases the risk of such health complaints. In addition to regular ventilation, it is therefore important to choose building materials with quality seals like EMICODE® for construction and renovation work. These are certified to be largely free of chemical pollutants and ensure a healthy living environment.

In Germany, people's interest in their physical well-being is continuously growing. This not only shows in the increasing sales of organic food. When buying building products, eight out of ten Germans make sure that they are healthy for living and environmentally friendly. This is the result of the study „Wohngesundheits Deutschland“ carried out in 2018/2019 by BENZ24 and the market research institute Innofact. About two thirds of those surveyed put their trust in quality seals. However, these seals are often granted to ecological products, which are not necessarily healthy for living. Although

they are made of sustainable raw materials, they are not always free of harmful substances.

According to the „Wohngesundheits Deutschland“ study, the majority (92 percent) of people consider paper wallpaper as harmless. If the paper comes from sustainable sources, it can certainly be ecological. But if the humidity at home is too high because the rooms cool down in winter or are insufficiently ventilated, there is a high risk of mold growth on the wallpaper. If you want to live in a healthy home with unpolluted air, make sure to choose the right building materials. This applies in particular to the materials used on walls and floors like carpets, parquet, vinyl and others.

No matter which floor covering you choose, expert preparation of the substrate is key. If you want to prevent damage, mold or odors caused by the floor structure, the subfloor should be level, sound, clean and dry. It is best to consult a professional floor layer who can assess the condition of the subfloor and knows exactly how to proceed. It is important to use the right materials for preparing the substrate, but also for works carried out on walls and ceilings. The materials should have the lowest possible emissions in order to maximize air hygiene.

For a healthy and pollution-free home, we recommend choosing building and installation products that carry a trustworthy quality seal. The GEV EMICODE®, for example, has been awarding its EC1 seal for 22 years to numerous low-emission building and installation products. Independent laboratories test the products over a period of several weeks. Only products that comply with the stringent emission limits are allowed to display the EC1 seal on the packaging. Regular unannounced spot checks monitor that the predefined limits are observed. The EC1 seal thus ensures long-term compliance with the high quality standard.

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