

Varnishes protect the precious wood

Parquet of long-lasting beauty



Sealed parquet floors not only offer the best protection against water, dirt and everyday wear and tear. They also bring a new shine to your home and provide a good indoor climate. For the sake of healthy living, only products with the EMICODE® seal should be used for surface treatment. They are guaranteed to have the lowest possible emissions.

Wood is natural, versatile and provides a good indoor climate. This makes it an excellent flooring material. But only a well-protected and maintained surface makes the parquet floor a real gem of long-lasting beauty. Modern parquet varnishes provide the strongest protection against moisture, dirt and daily exposure to countless steps. On top, the sealing product gives the floor a beautiful shine. To ensure that residents can live in a healthy home free of pollutants, builders and renovators should use high-quality water-based varnishes that are not harmful to human health. When choosing the right surface finish, it is therefore advisable to look out for the EMICODE® seal.

Whether oak, walnut or maple: a wooden floor always conveys a warm and cosy atmosphere. But neither parquet nor floorboards like the penetration of water or dirt. It causes the floor to age prematurely and to lose its shine. In the worst case, it may need to be refinished, which causes unnecessary effort and cost. This is why proper surface treatment is so important after installing the wood floor. Parquet varnishes are ideally suited for this purpose. Applied in several coats, they provide the best protection because the wood is completely sealed from above. This not only makes the floor insensitive to water but also easy to clean. In most cases, a damp cloth is sufficient. The beauty of it: Parquet varnishes are available with different gloss grades – from naturally matt finishes that enhance the character of the wood to high-gloss finishes that provide a mirror-like shine. This means that the residents can perfectly match their home furnishings to the flooring.

Usually, one- or two-component varnishes are used for surface treatment in living areas, because they are particularly durable and abrasion-resistant. Three-component varnishes additionally protect the parquet from sunlight, so that the wood retains its natural color for a very long time. Modern parquet varnishes are highly elastic (no rigid layer), hard-wearing and have a high filling capacity. They also dry very quickly so that the floor can be walked on after just two or three days.

Surface protection for hardwood floors has a long history: In the Middle Ages, sand or straw was spread on the floor to protect it from wear and tear. When this natural cover was dirty, it could be quickly replaced. Another method was to rub the floor with a bacon rind. Also linseed oil and heating oil were used for maintenance. However, modern surface treatment only began with the introduction of solvents. Meanwhile, these have been replaced by environmentally friendly solutions that are not harmful to human health. As a result, many manufacturers have long since switched their production from solvent- to water-based products. The very low solvent content (less than 8 percent) only serves as a binder which, just like water, evaporates after application. Afterwards, only the desired sealing coat remains. In the end, water-based varnishes are just as effective as solvent-based solutions. In addition, the risk of fire is virtually eliminated and odor development is next to zero.

But be careful: Parquet varnishes with a low solvent content are not automatically free of harmful substances. Good indicators of low-emission building products are the quality seals visible on the packaging, for example the EMICODE®. This renowned seal is only awarded to building materials that have been proven to be very low in emissions. In order to comply with the strict limit values of the EMICODE®, the products are continuously monitored by independent experts. This gives residents maximum protection against indoor air pollution and also ensures a high level of environmental compatibility. At the end of the day, the new floor covering will look good for many years and you will stay healthy within your own four walls.

**Mehr Informationen zum EMICODE®
finden Sie unter www.emicode.com**

Photo: ©stylephotographs/123rf.com / GEV



*Ausschließlich Produkte, die die strengen Emissionsansprüche erfüllen, dürfen mit dem EMICODE®-Siegel gekennzeichnet werden. Die Hersteller verpflichten sich, diese Produkte qualitätsgesichert und kontrolliert zu produzieren, um den EMICODE®-Vorgaben jederzeit zu entsprechen. Um höchstmögliche Sicherheit zu gewährleisten, werden die Produkte regelmäßig von unabhängigen, international anerkannten Prüfinstituten stichprobenartig kontrolliert. Das EMICODE®-Siegel kommt in derzeit bis zu 20 Sprachen zur Anwendung. Seit 1997 verantwortlich für den EMICODE® ist die GEV (Gemeinschaft emissionskontrollierte Verlegewerkstoffe, Klebstoffe und Bauprodukte e.V.) in Düsseldorf. **Kontakt:** info@emicode.com*