

Sustainable and healthy living



More and more people want to reduce their ecological footprint through a sustainable lifestyle. Especially in the area of living, a lot of CO₂ can be saved by using eco-friendly and recyclable furniture and furnishings. These can include floor coverings made of real wood, carpets of seaweed, lampshades of recycled paper or seating furniture made of cork. For a green home, housebuilders and renovators should also pay attention to the choice of materials underneath walls and floors. In concrete terms: all installation, sealing and insulation products should be free of harmful emissions and thus ensure a healthy home. These products can be easily identified by the EMICODE® seal on the packaging.

Three out of four Germans consider a sustainable lifestyle important or even very important. And almost half of them say that climate protection and sustainability are relevant issues among their friends and acquaintances. This is the result of a representative YouGov survey commissioned in 2020 by LichtBlick, Germany's largest supplier of green electricity, on the occasion of the Earth Overshoot Day (EOD).

In our own four walls, a climate- and environmentally friendly lifestyle can be achieved, for example, by energy-saving lamps, the economical use of electricity and heating energy, and the purchase of furniture made from renewable and recyclable raw materials. When choosing the natural material wood, sustainable living is guaranteed. Wood has a positive CO₂ balance, possesses excellent insulation properties and „breathes“, thus having a favorable effect on the indoor climate. But also natural stone from local sources has a small ecological footprint. Moreover, natural stone is

characterized by good energy efficiency and thermal conductivity – an important aspect when installing underfloor heating.

But not only our home furnishings have a great potential for sustainability. It's also the materials underneath walls and floors that count: they should not have a negative impact on our health and environment. For this reason, all building and installation materials – such as sealants, primers, damping underlays, joint sealants, adhesives, fillers, parquet varnishes or wall panels – should be very low in emissions.

Green building products can be recognized by eco-labels such as the EMICODE®. Before receiving the label from the GEV, the responsible organization for EMICODE® certification, the products are tested by independent laboratories using a special test chamber procedure. If the results are positive, the products are awarded the quality seal. Regular spot checks carried out by independent experts and testing institutes ensure consistent quality. This is a major advantage of the EMICODE® over other certification systems for health and environmental compatibility.

Since the EMICODE® meanwhile represents today's standard, you need not dig deeper into your pockets for a healthier living style than with conventional products. This is economical, helps protect the environment and benefits your health at the same time.

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