

# How to provide a healthy home for children



**Parents should make sure that all building materials used inside their home have been emission-tested. For children in particular, a healthy living environment is of vital importance. Parents therefore play it safe when opting for EMICODE®-certified materials. The eco-label can be found on building and installation products for floors, windows and walls.**

Health is the highest good in life. Especially in our own four walls, a place of safety and well-being, we should feel completely at ease and not endangered by harmful substances. Healthy living takes a high priority for 73 percent of all Germans. This was the result of a representative survey carried out by the market research institute YouGov on behalf of the crafts cooperative MEGA eG. For parents raising their offspring, a safe nest and healthy indoor climate is all the more important. Apart from child-safe furniture and toys, „clean“ building materials are essential – recognizable by the EMICODE® seal.

The floor plays a key role for a healthy indoor climate – not only in terms of surface area. It's the area of most contact with the residents. Many people find it difficult to assess whether the selected floor covering is really healthy for living. According to the survey by YouGov and MEGA eG, only 42 percent of those surveyed say they are aware of health risks associated with flooring materials. It is, however, quite easy to identify healthy flooring materials: Good indicators are quality seals such as the Ü and CE mark or the TÜV and GuT seals for carpets.

It is advisable to have the parquet or other floor coverings installed by a professional fitter. He will choose full-surface bonding

because of the firm connection to the subfloor. This makes the flooring more hard-wearing and easier to maintain, keeps the noise level low (especially with resilient flooring and parquet) and ensures effective distribution of the heat from underfloor heating systems. Choosing a low-emission adhesive is of key importance. Products carrying the EMICODE® seal meet the world's most stringent emission limits. The seal is clearly visible on the packaging and identifies low-emission adhesives, surface treatment agents, fillers, primers, underlays and many other products. Also window sealants and wall insulation panels are available with the eco-label. The emission levels are determined by independent laboratories. Long-term compliance with the limit values is ensured by regular spot checks carried out by independent experts and testing institutes. This is a major advantage of EMICODE® over other certification systems for health and environmental compatibility.

**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)