New Build, Renovation and Restoration

This is how beautiful floors can be.

Exclusive technologies that will guarantee indoor air quality and value.

The GEV informs you on what to look out for in floor covering installations.

An assured sign for your health:

GEV-EMICODE® EC 1 very low emission

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Imagine a beautiful floor installed to perfection, completely smooth without any a Parquet floors as perfect as tabletops. Are these realistic images, or do they exis glossy brochures? These questions often arise when making decisions for New B The factors, that determine the end result, are not just the covering, but in particu

Often substrates can be too coarse, uneven or poorly levelled, difficulties will be inevitable, especially when using thin or very shiny materials. In these cases the smallest imperfection could lead to the formation of bubbles, hollows or just an aesthetically unpleasant finish. Inclined surfaces will become noticeable, with even furniture not sitting straight or fitting flush to the walls. Without good professional preparation a floor of this type will become a growing annoyance.

The use of different flooring preparation materials is a vital part of any high quality installation of floor coverings. It goes without saying that these products must satisfy the highest demands regarding their aesthetic performance, but they should also offer the highest level of protection for the consumer's health as well as the environment. The Emicode (EC) delivers a reliable classification system for determining the health and environmental status of a preparation product. All products, for example smoothing and levelling compounds, labelled with the "EC 1" label have very low emissions.

Levelling Compounds

Smoothing and levelling compounds enable the formation of a smooth, level, and most of all an adhesive friendly subfloor. The best levelling compounds are mixed with a specific amount of water, and due to their specially engineered fluid characteristics, smooth out more or less of their own accord. Once all cavities and hollows are sufficiently filled by the compound, an almost perfectly smooth surface will result. Smoothing compounds can be used to cover up residues of exiting floor coverings and base layers when renovating. These compounds are also particularly useful for non-porous surfaces that are not capable of absorbing water from adhesives, for example ceramic tiles. Here the levelling compounds offer the invaluable advantage of a buffer zone. They absorb the adhesive moisture temporarily when a floor covering is being glued, ensuring a rapid and secure bond. Over time this absorbed moisture is released bit by bit into the indoor air.

Priming and undercoating

To provide a secure adhesion for levelling compounds, sub layers should first be primed. This is of particular importance for non-porous surfaces like tiles. In this way undercoating and priming promote adhesion. Undercoats can also have the added task of binding dust which could otherwise inhibit adhesion. The occurrence of dust is almost unavoidable when working under building site conditions.

Insulation

Once the floor has been levelled it is possible to manipulate its noise, mechanical, and temperature characteristics. Insulation materials can serve several functions at the same time; by reducing noise they increase the quality of living, with their elastic base they provide suspension when walking on the floor, significantly increasing comfort. Additionally, they reduce heat loss increasing the foot comfort.

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esthetically unpleasant distortions.
t only in the realm of manufacturers
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ular in the materials that lie beneath.

An assured sign for your health: EC 1

Several manufacturers offer adhesives and other flooring installation products, which are deemed to be safer regarding health and the environment. The EMICODE (EC) is an assured point of reference when choosing such a product. It divides materials into three categories. Only products labelled with the classification "EC 1 – very low emission" fulfil the highest health demands. By taking random samples the GEV (the Association for the Control of Emissions in Products for Flooring Installation) continually controls the certified qualities of these products.



Adhesives

Whether with or without insulation, the final phase of the desired floor covering (carpet, linoleum, parquet, laminate) can be glued down. This may be necessary to counter any tendency of the floor covering to shrink or expand due to climatic changes. Floor coverings from a roll very rarely lie smooth of their own accord and therefore should be glued down. Carpet and elastic floor coverings are particularly prone to expansion while in use, so It is strongly recommended that these types of floor coverings should also be glued down. If the adhesion requirement is omitted, the formation of unattractive dents, bubbles and waves beneath the floor covering is highly likely. In concentrated areas of localised wear they might even turn into dangerous trip hazards, and will reduce the life expectancy of the floor covering. Once a textile, linoleum or PVC covering is stuck to the floor, any undesired movement is eliminated. This is the only reliable guarantee against the appearance of bubbles. Glued parquet floors are less prone to distortion during climatic changes, and can be smoothed down and resealed with far fewer problems in years to come. Adhesives can also provide useful noise insulation.

Fixatives (Tackifiers)

Fixatives are used to glue down floor coverings that are required for a limited time only. Their advantage is that fixatives can be removed with ease at the end of the floor coverings life.

Please note!

Foundation, primer, levelling compound and adhesive materials should be systematically matched and tested. It is therefore recommended to buy all of the products from the same manufacturer, and to follow their recommendations. To avoid unnecessary and unhealthy emissions, only products labelled with "EC 1" very low emission should be used.

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Consumers can breathe easy: No harmful emission from the floor thanks to EMICODE “EC 1”

The worn out carpet needs replacing, the rented accommodation needs sound proofing prior to new tenants moving in, or a shop is fitted out with customer friendly modern flooring. Who ensures that these new floor covering installations will not release harmful VOC emissions?

Underlying Principal of the GEV

A few years ago, the “Association for the Control of Emissions in Products for Flooring Installation” (GEV) provided a solution to this problem. This organisation developed and established neutral, objective classification criteria - the EMICODE (EC). All products used in the installation of flooring, e.g. primers and adhesives, are classified into one of three classes based on their emission characteristics. Only products of the first class (EC 1) are “very low emission” and fulfil the highest expectations regarding the protection of health and the environment. The packaging of these products is visibly labelled with the ”EC 1” sign.

Spot check controls

Manufacturer’s, whose products display the ”EC 1” sign, commit to produce their products according to strict conditions under stringent control from the GEV. For more than five years the GEV has monitored the manufacturer’s product information regarding standards for consumer and environmental protection. It regularly takes random samples of the products classified as safe for health and the environment. To prevent mistakes in measuring GEV has commissioned two independent institutes to regulate the analysis.

Database provides information

A database by GEV provides an overview of which products, labelled very low emission (EC 1), are available on the market to date: www.emicode-produkte.com. This database is supported by the German Ministry for the Environment.

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