

TECHNICAL SPECIAL INFORMATION 03

Problem of sealing old wax contaminated soils

Parquet and flooring technology is more often concerned with floors loaded with old wax, be it in the form of waxed or hot waxed floors that are to be converted to seals. In both cases, even with the most thorough sanding, wax deposits can be expected in the joints or other recesses. These wax residues represent a fundamental lacquer-technical problem, for which there is in principle "no absolute patent solution".

However, there are numerous hints which should help the practitioner to reduce the resulting risks without completely eliminating them. As is so often the case, this problem is also a question of the specific situation and the extent of the burden.

Risks: → Drying delay
→ Mats
→ Adhesion reduction up to complete removability of sealing films

Measures to reduce risks:

1. Thorough preparation

The sanding must be more thorough than usual, the more often the sandpaper is changed the better.

Wide wax-filled joints should be specifically treated. This can be done, for example, by scratching out the surface of these joints and then filling them with wood putty. This does not completely close off the "wax joint", but the contact area between the wax stock and the subsequent seal is significantly reduced. It is important, however, that the wax is thoroughly sanded again in order to remove the wax-contaminated filler knocks on the other wood surface.

It must not be expected that the wood cement will adhere normally to the joints. This means that a partial breaking out in the course of time must be expected depending on the joint width.

2. The correct working technique

In these cases, we recommend that you do not use the trowel technique and use the brush or even better the roller technique. When brushing, but also when rolling, care must be taken to ensure that the coating or application is carried out at right angles to the joint in order to reduce the discharge of wax particles as far as possible.

3. Selection of the optimal sealing system and its correct application

Since the customer often influences the selection of the sealing system or prescribes it, a general and unconditional exclusion of any coating system cannot be made here.

Basically, oil synthetic resin seals such as SOLVSEAL LT EXPORT EXTRA and CLASSIC HARDOIL dissolve wax more easily than other seals due to their solvent combination. If the system is chosen freely, these should therefore be avoided.

If the client still insists on the use of the above products, the preparation of the floor must be all the more thorough. Furthermore, the first sealing layer should then be rolled and dried well for at least 3 days. Only over-seal after a sufficient degree of dryness.

If matt spots appear on the first layer (wax absorption in the seal and floating on the seal surfaces), wipe with BRILLIANCE CLEANER L91 KH-VERDÜNNUNG (fog moist, well wrung out cloth) before further processing. Also a light intermediate sanding (sanding) after this first layer brings additional risk reduction.

In this situation, our water-based AQUASEAL® products are generally recommended, as the latter practically neither dissolve nor absorb grease. On the contrary, a water seal warns against too large and risky amounts of wax during the first layer by jumping back or covers smaller amounts of wax and encloses them so to speak.

TECHNICAL SPECIAL INFORMATION 03

Concluding remark

If you follow all these instructions, you can almost eliminate the wax risk, but there remains a certain residual risk, however small it may be. This residual risk can only be assessed on site and minimized sufficiently by the processor. The client also assumes joint responsibility by prescribing special seals and should be made aware of this.

If possible, also protect yourself against your end customer by informing him orally or in writing during the offer phase, but at the latest in writing with the order confirmation and thus demonstrably pointing out this risk. Furthermore, in this formulation you should clearly assign the risk to the area of responsibility of your client, unless it was triggered or identifiable by you yourself - i.e. if you are not at all at fault in the end.

The CTA (Chemisch-Technische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Parkettversiegelung) has drawn up a letter to the end user containing the relevant formulations. We would like to recommend this standard letter for your use. You can, of course, request this text from us at any time. Of course, you can also modify it to suit your needs. Have your parquet layers read this special technical information once a year. In this way the knowledge remains present and your employees go to work with open eyes.

This special technical information is intended to advise you to the best of our knowledge and belief and in accordance with the state of the art, thus helping to avoid unpleasant complaints and to achieve our common goal of high-quality sealed parquet. In case of doubt or if additional information is required, we offer our customers a comprehensive telephone consultation service. Our expert team is at your disposal for further information.