

TECHNICAL SPECIAL INFORMATION 04

Special instructions for the cleaning and care of wooden floors in schools, gymnasiums, sports halls and other public buildings.

(for architects, property developers, caretakers and nursing staff)

All wooden floors are subject to a greater or lesser degree of wear and tear depending on the stress to which they are subjected. This natural wear process can be reduced or slowed down by proper cleaning and care of the wooden floor. Here some basic technical rules have to be observed which refer to the type of care, the frequency as well as the correct product selection with regard to the intended use.

Due to the importance of the subject of "care", some important printed materials have already been prepared for this purpose, which are listed below and can be requested from us free of charge on request:

1. Brilliance care instruction: This clear care advisor gives information about the question, which care products (systems) with which objects and surface treatment types can be recommended.
2. Technical data sheets for application: product-related data sheets provide specific instructions for application.
3. Care instructions according to DIN 18356: These general care instructions for sealed / impregnated wooden floors were developed jointly by the CTA (Chemisch-Technische Arbeitsgemeinschaft Parkettversiegelung) and include important care instructions as well as information on the most important care types and their frequency.
4. Technical Special Information No. 9 on the slip and slip resistance of sealed parquet floors: This special information from our company deals in detail with the sliding properties of parquet seals and subsequent care.

Due to the great importance of the optimum choice of care technology for durability, gliding/smoothness and the actual amount of work involved, it is advisable that decision-makers in the industry, consultants, architects and responsible persons use all these information offers.

Why water-based care emulsions are preferred today!

In the past, only liquid or paste-like, solvent-based waxes or care oils were used to care for sealed and unsealed wooden floors. Today more than 90% of water-based emulsion products such as our Brilliance EverClear system are used. Why is this so?

Although solvent-based and wax-based care products have a very good care and protection effect, the disadvantages of these products are usually the decisive factor. Care products of this type have to be polished, tend to have a relatively smooth surface and therefore a high accident rate and have a not inconsiderable solvent odor. The advantage of water-based products is usually their self-gloss finish (no polishing), their almost solvent-free, low-odour composition and their gliding properties, which can range from "non-slip" to "non-slip".

However, there is no rule without exception. For example, it is still the case today that waxed wooden floors or sealed floors that have already "run sore" must be treated with wax/solvent.

The connection between gliding behaviour and care

The slip resistance of the wooden floor is an important property, especially in public buildings and sports facilities. In addition to the selection of the type of seal/surface treatment, the selection of the care system also plays a decisive role. For example, it is possible to change the sliding friction coefficients specified by the seal upwards or downwards.

A floor treated with wax/solvent or a hot waxed surface usually has a coefficient of sliding friction of approx. 0.20 to 0.30, i.e. "surfaces with sliding properties" are achieved. An increase in the coefficient of sliding friction (i.e. a reduction in sliding capacity) due to products containing wax/solvent is only possible to a limited extent (e.g. Brilliance FitPolish).

If a "surface with slip resistance" is desired, with a coefficient of sliding friction between 0.30 and 0.50, our standard product Brilliance Everclear can be used. According to the FMPA test certificate, this product has a coefficient of sliding friction of approx. 0.36. Experience has shown that the majority of all wood floors to be maintained are located in the area of this "slip-resistant setting". In this respect, Brilliance Everclear is the correct and most frequently used all-round care product in our range of care products.

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Only in the sports hall and when individual sports, such as volleyball (fast sports) require it, the floor should be made more slip-resistant and blunt. This desired increase in the coefficient of sliding friction is achieved with our special product Brilliance Everclear Stop. According to the FMPT test certificate, we achieve a coefficient of sliding friction of 0.4 to 0.6 with this product - this corresponds to surfaces in sports halls and gymnasiums, as stipulated in DIN 18032 for sports floors.

For school sports or mass sports and in the multi-purpose hall for dance events, however, an increased gliding ability towards "slip-resistant" surfaces is usually desired.

Due to this problem, it is interesting to note that the coefficient of sliding friction can be slightly varied by using the two care products Brilliance Everclear and Brilliance Everclear Stop. The two products, which are optimally adjusted to each other, can be combined as desired. This means that a floor that is too smooth can be made more slip-resistant by using Brilliance Everclear Stop and a floor that is too blunt can be made more slip-resistant by using Brilliance Everclear. This is a practical solution when a sports hall is used for many purposes.

Warning against the use of so-called grip waxes in club sports

In order to increase the grip of the ball in fast ball games such as handball, so-called grip waxes are sometimes used in club sports. This is partly tree wax, which is relatively sticky. Due to the constant alternating contact between hand and ground this leads to additional contamination of the ground and the coefficient of sliding friction is increased too much at certain points, i.e. the ground becomes too dull. This can lead to an abrupt stop by an extreme stopping of the natural motion sequence in the contact phase between the floor surface and shoes, with the consequence of possibly avoidable sport injuries.

Since caretakers, as practice shows, have hardly any chance to prevent this, in this case the game leaders or trainers are required to prevent the use of tree wax.

Talcum during apparatus gymnastics

Talcum or magnesium powder is usually used to absorb hand perspiration or to achieve the correct gliding ability of the Turner hands. These powders feel extraordinarily fine, but are very abrasive and act like fine sandpaper on the sealed floor. In order to prevent these powders from making the seal surface "blind" or rubbing the seal off, a basic cleaning with subsequent full care must always be carried out after the end of a gymnastics event.

Work rooms and wood dust

Wooden floors of workshops are often covered with wood dust due to the work carried out there. Due to its nature, this wood dust can often act like a kind of "ball bearing effect", with the result that pupils slip on it. This effect is sometimes confused with the surface quality of the parquet seal or the care products, but has nothing to do with it. For this reason, but also for health and hygiene reasons, the wood dust should always be absorbed thoroughly and as quickly as possible.

When is the floor ready for basic cleaning?

If a parquet floor is "over-cultivated" by the frequent rhythm of use and maintenance, it becomes unsightly. At the latest then the time has come when a basic cleaning has to be carried out. This basic cleaning must be carried out in accordance with the care instructions DIN 18356 or our product-specific data sheets. For larger surfaces, the recommended basic cleaner/cleaner is applied, the actual cleaning process is carried out and the soiled basic cleaner is picked up mechanically. It is important that the floor is not flooded, as large quantities of penetrating liquid can damage the floor. The technology must be adapted to the existing machines. It is advantageous if the basic cleaner can act on the care agent layer and is released by mechanical movements (rubbing). Please make sure that the suction device of automatic cleaning machines is set in such a way that the dirty cleaning liquid is completely sucked up and no residue remains. The frequency of basic cleaning naturally depends on the type and extent of use of the object and the resulting degree of soiling. In general, it is assumed that basic cleaning is carried out once or twice a year in an average public building such as a sports hall. An "extraordinary" basic cleaning may also be necessary after appropriate events. In the case of multiple changes of use in the multi-purpose hall, basic cleaning will be necessary more often depending on the frequency of use.

The basic rule for the basic cleaning is: the more frequently the basic cleaning is carried out, the easier it is to carry it out. In the case of heavily built-up layers of water-based emulsion care agents, basic cleaning becomes more difficult and complex. In some cases it may be necessary to repeat the basic cleaning several times in order to achieve the desired cleaning result.

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Conclusion: The responsible operator of a public facility is largely in control of how beautiful and durable its sealed/surface-treated floor will be. It also has a major influence on the gliding properties. It is a question of the right choice of maintenance system as well as the optimally coordinated amount of work required to clean the floor at the right time and in the right way. Only in the right combination of full care, maintenance cleaning and basic cleaning can a maximum service life of the sealed surface be guaranteed. To maintain the value of the sealed parquet floor, all experts agree and this is also laid down in binding technical documents, professional cleaning and maintenance is essential. We would like to support you in this matter with information such as that contained in our numerous printed materials and therefore ask you to read and observe them carefully.

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 all our objectives 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.