

TECHNICAL SPECIAL INFORMATION 05

The over-sealing / re-sealing of multilayer parquet (finished parquet), e.g. immediately after new laying on the existing lacquer layer.

Problem of the topic

The term multilayer parquet (ready-to-lay parquet) is defined in DIN EN 13489 Wood Floors - Multilayer Parquet Elements. Nevertheless, we are dealing with products and surfaces of varying quality, especially from the point of view of lacquer technology. Pre-finished parquet is coated with a seal at the factory, so there is usually no need to seal the surface on site when new parquet is laid.

However, some building owners repeatedly express the wish to apply an additional sealing layer immediately after the new installation in order to increase the wear layer on the surface and thus the wear resistance or service life of the surface. This is usually the case when the floor is expected to be more frequented, e.g. in shops, etc..

In fact, quite a few finished parquets also have a relatively thin sealing layer which, despite its high lacquer quality, some consumers believe requires an immediate "retrofitting" of the sealing layer thickness. The laying craftsman must place himself to this desire. The problem exists now in the multiplicity of the finished parquet products, which complicate generally obligatory and overall statements to the topic and make partial impossible. Because even if we know where the parquet comes from and who produced it, what do we know about the coating of the surface? Which type of seal, which method of application, which system structure was used? And even if all this were known, who would give us the certainty that nothing would be changed? Even the smallest changes in the system, a new paint type or paint supplier can change the situation from this point on.

Nevertheless, the following attempt will be made to provide useful information on the subject and to limit the technical problems somewhat according to today's state of the art. Observing these instructions can help to avoid damage and makes clear the visual risks that the client must take note of and accept beforehand.

The adhesion of the sealing layer to the factory lacquer layer

In addition to optical aspects, this is the decisive technical question. Does my seal "X" adhere to the finished parquet "Y"? Most finished parquets today are coated with UV-curing polyester/acrylate systems. Even solvent-based, air-drying polyurethane systems are still used in isolated cases. The previously more common SH systems have almost disappeared. Our water-based parquet seal AQUASEAL® 2KPU and AQUASEAL® ECOGOLD adheres well to all these seal types in most cases if the following conditions are fulfilled:

1. **The surface must be absolutely clean**, i.e. free of care products, dirt, grease and other residues. Invisible silicone soiling must also be excluded. These can lead to considerable adhesion disturbances and optical impairments. It is not uncommon for substances that interfere with adhesion to be present on completely new and unused finished parquet. Only an upstream basic cleaning brings security.
2. **A thorough intermediate sanding is absolutely necessary**, i.e. an even "matt sanding" with 120 or 150 paper. This achieves the maximum possible anchoring of the subsequent sealing layer.

If these two conditions are met, the water seal is in principle best suited. However, there are recommendations on the part of the seal manufacturers which must be observed in this case. We only recommend the type AQUASEAL® 2KPU and AQUASEAL® ECOGOLD for this purpose. Always consult your seal supplier.

Another important limitation is the fact that the varnish type of the finished parquet and its ability to be painted over is sometimes questionable (e.g. anti-scratch surfaces). Here, questions from the parquet manufacturer can help. However, current changes in the parquet manufacturer's production may result in changes to the overpaintability. This can lead to the fact that earlier positive experiences no longer count. Therefore only a method gives highest possible security:

→ The current preliminary test!

Combine the products to be used with each other and judge the adhesion by scratch tests (e.g. cross cut on sample surface) after sufficient final hardness of the seal.

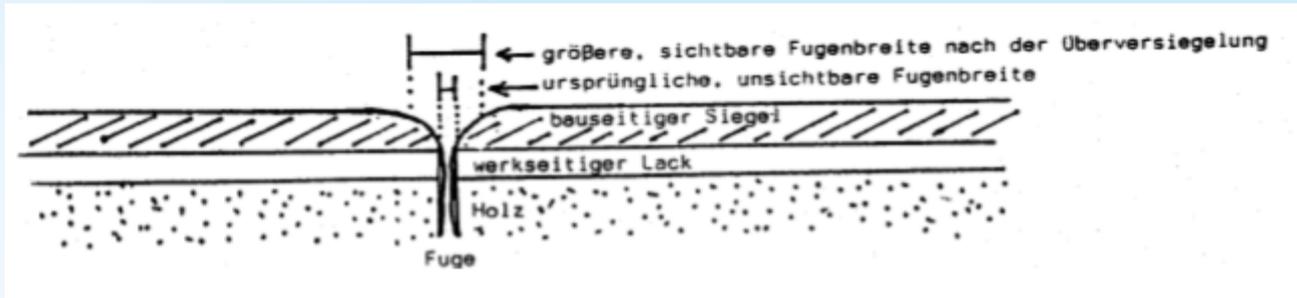
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Optical aspects and risks

This should be the subject of an open, informative discussion with the client. In particular, the following effects should be pointed out which may not be acceptable to particularly sensitive consumers:

1. Emphasis on joints

The seal applied on site runs into the joints between the individual installation elements and leads to an optical highlighting of these joints. The joint is widened optically and the refraction of light is changed.

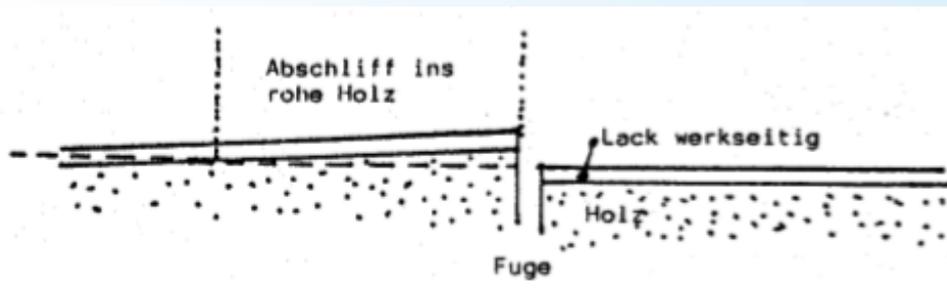


2. Dust inclusions

The typical and unavoidable dust inclusions etc., which are typical for all sealings applied on site, are a matter of course for every parquet layer. However, the end user, who is not familiar with the material, may compare the surface sealed on site with the previously existing appearance of the coated finished parquet, which inevitably has a more uniform appearance due to the industrial, automatic coating. This can lead to discussions with sensitive customers, which can be avoided by prior information.

3. Sanding through

If the finished parquet has differences in height, especially in the area of the edges, the necessary intermediate sanding can lead to the lacquer layer being sanded through into the raw wood. The following seal penetrates deeper into the wood surface (pores) at these rough, sanded-through areas. Depending on the type of wood, this can stand out from the majority of the coated surface. There are then more or less strong differences in brightness or markings.



Summary

The subsequent sealing of pre-finished parquet immediately after laying is always problematic and should therefore be rejected. Should the subsequent sealing nevertheless be agreed, then our remarks on liability must be observed. A current adhesion test provides security. The visual characteristics which must be made aware should be agreed with the customer beforehand.