

MORE FROM WOOD.



EGGER FLOORING WITH CORK+ TECHNOLOGY GUIDE

FROM A-Z





EGGER Flooring with **cork+** Technology A-Z Guide

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Abrasion (classes)

EGGER flooring with cork+ technology is not laminate flooring according to EN 13329 or EN 15468. EGGER flooring with cork+ technology falls under the category of “multi-layer semi-rigid floor covering (MSF) panels with wear resistant top layer”, tested, certified and designated according to prEN 16511.

Accessories

EGGER offers an extensive accessory programme to meet your needs. Among other things, you will find trim, profiles, cleaner, repair kits and additional highlights such as in-floor LED lighting for your individual flooring.

Allergies

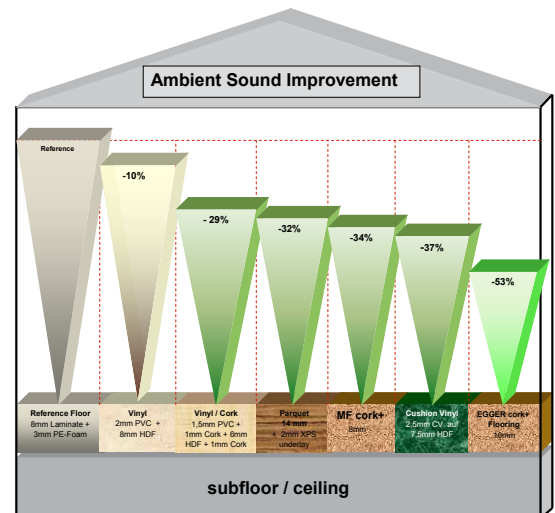
An allergy is the state of an acquired hypersensitivity of the organism towards a substance regarded as being foreign to the body (allergen). Due to the natural raw materials, sealed surface structure and straightforward and efficient cleaning of EGGER flooring with cork+ technology, one can even come to the conclusion that, with proper cleaning, this type of flooring is especially suitable for individuals suffering from allergies. Dust mites and other allergenic organisms cannot survive on well-cleaned surfaces and therefore cannot trigger allergic reactions. Naturally, this is also important for individuals suffering from asthma or dust allergies.

Appearance

Unlike conventional cork flooring, our flooring products with cork+ technology are not visually discernible as such. Thanks to our proven direct print technology (also see cork+ and DPR), we are able to upgrade the cork surface with wood reproductions. The result is a visual appearance which is similar to classic parquet and laminate flooring while simultaneously encompassing the characteristics warm, soft and silent (also see characteristics). Occasional small surface indentations are typical for the natural base product (cork) and accentuate the authentic character of these products.

Audible echoes

Ambient sound refers to the sound that occurs and is perceived when walking on laminate flooring in a room. EGGER flooring with cork+ technology achieves ambient sound reduction of 14 sone thanks to the sound insulating properties of the natural material cork, which means it is 50% quieter than the reference flooring (8 mm (0.32”) laminate flooring on 3 mm (0.12”) PE foam underlay) according to IHD W 431.



Bathroom

EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is not suitable for installation in humid conditions or areas with splashed water, such as bathrooms or saunas.

Bonding

The bonding of EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology to the sub floor is not possible or not recommended.

Building authority approval

Flooring requires general building authority for use in habitable rooms in Germany. This is based on the DIBt principles for evaluating the health effects of construction products. Building authority approval is issued by the Deutsches Institut für Bautechnik (DIBt) in Berlin. EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology has been given building authority approval by the DIBt.

Care and maintenance

The sealed surface makes cleaning straightforward and simple. Normal maintenance cleaning should be performed by sweeping, vacuuming or damp wiping. Please consult our cleaning and care instructions for further information!

Care products

A suitable care product does not build up any layers and does not aggressively penetrate into the edge areas, which could cause them to swell up. For regular maintenance, we recommend our especially developed and system-specific EGGER CLEAN IT flooring cleaner.

Carpeted floor

Carpet flooring is not a suitable sub floor for the floating installation of multilayer floor coverings. Reasons include that carpeted floors may yield excessively under load, and that carpeting is what is called directional for production technology reasons and this would be transferred directly to flooring with floating installation. Hygienic aspects are another consideration, since carpeted floor may rot underneath other floor coverings.

CE certification & declaration of performance

CE certification has been issued for EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology. The corresponding declaration of performance is available to anyone under www.egger.com.

Characteristics

EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology combines virtually all characteristics of a perfect floor covering:

Warm: the structure of the cork⁺ layer with its many small air pockets forms a natural insulator, which releases stored heat more slowly so that the surface feels warmer when walking on it.





Comparative thermography images taken after 80 seconds, standing on the test surface

Soft: walking comfort thanks to the cork⁺ layer as a flexible component of the product composition.

Silent: the two cork layers are excellent sound insulators, so that ambient sound in particular is reduced significantly (also see ambient sound & impact sound).

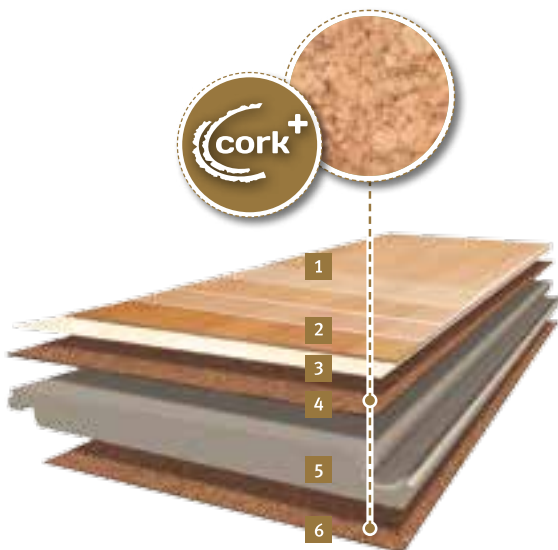
Robust: with proper use and care, the tough yet simultaneously elastic surface coating guarantees a beautiful surface over many years.

Ecological: EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is made from the renewable raw materials cork and wood (PEFC-certified) (also see ecology).

cork⁺ technology & DPR process

The proven DPR process makes it possible to upgrade the cork surface with numerous decors. With elastic, water-based colour components that are virtually free of solvents, colour is applied directly to the cork layer (approximately 3 times higher density than natural cork). Then the printed decor is sealed with a 7-layer transparent coating, textured and ready for use.

The result: EGGER FLOORING WITH CORK⁺ TECHNOLOGY



- 1 Durable UV surface layer structure
- 2 Printed decor
- 3 Pre-coat for a harmonious colour image
- 4 High density, elastic surface layer with cork⁺ technology
- 5 Swell stop plus coreboard consisting of natural wood fibres
- 6 Integrated underlay consisting of natural cork

} DPR production technology

Cupping

Distortion and buckling occurs when the flooring elements with cork⁺ technology are not sufficiently acclimatised prior to installation (not adapted to the ambient climate). Alternatively, the installed laminate flooring is not sufficiently protected against rising underground moisture (see vapour barrier).

Damages

Minor surface damage can be repaired with a repair compound. A corresponding repair compound for light and dark decors is available from our selection of accessories.

Disposal

EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is classified as ecologically harmless household waste, which means it can be disposed of in landfills or incineration plants.

Ecology



Unprinted, natural cork surface



Printed and natural cork⁺ surface

Apart from its positive application characteristics, our flooring with cork⁺ technology also has a complete ecological profile which identifies it as an environmentally friendly floor covering for healthy living (PVC free and no softeners). It consists of the renewable raw materials wood and cork at more than 99 %, is PEFC-certified and was awarded the “Der Blaue Engel” (Blue Angel) environmental seal of approval. The flooring is produced in highly modern production plants, which are subject to the most stringent emission and environmental protection requirements, and which have their own energy and heat recycling systems.

Expansion joints

Planning expansion joints

Like all wood and cork-based, organic materials, EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is subject to certain movement behaviours (shrinking/expanding) due to fluctuating room climate conditions. By means of sufficiently dimensioned expansion joints towards all fixed structural components, the finished flooring is not restricted in its movement behaviour. As a fundamental principle, expansion joints in a width of 8 mm to 10 mm (0.31” to 0.39”) must be formed towards fixed structural components such as walls, door frames, pipe conduits, pillars and stairways etc.



Planning movement profiles

Due to the specific material movement behaviour of flooring, transition mouldings must always be installed in the following size/area ranges:

- door thresholds
- passageways
- angled areas

Individual room lengths and / or widths of more than 10 metres (32.8')

Formaldehyde

In nature formaldehyde, can for example, be found in mammal cells as an intermediary product during normal metabolism. In humans approximately 50 g are formed in this way and metabolised again. Formaldehyde can also be found naturally in foods such as apples and grapes. Formaldehyde is also naturally found in wood and diffuses in small amounts towards the outside. Most central European countries recommend a maximum concentration of 0.1 ppm (parts per million) for living and recreation rooms. This threshold value applies for all wood-based materials. Compliance with this limit as a requirement for CE certification is symbolised by the E1 labelling of wood-based materials and documented in the corresponding declaration of performance. EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is a high-quality and hard-wearing floor covering on the basis of thin wood-based materials (HDF coreboard), with formaldehyde emissions in the lower range of the statutory thresholds. EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology has an average formaldehyde content of 0.01 ppm, which corresponds to one-tenth of the permitted value. It is therefore in a range which can also be found in wood in its natural state.

General

EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is a floor covering made from the natural raw materials wood and cork. EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is a floor covering for indoor use. Due to the high proportion of the raw materials wood and cork, this type of flooring is subject to natural size fluctuations.

HDF

High density fibreboard (abbreviated as HDF) is the term used for wood-based material boards that are made of resin bonding systems and pressed wood fibres, subjected to particularly high compression. Due to their high strength and low material thickness, HDF boards are particularly well suited as coreboards for flooring products with a multilayer structure (e.g. our flooring with cork⁺ technology and laminate flooring). Furthermore, EGGER type “HDF swell stop plus” coreboards are especially resistant against the effects of moisture, therefore offering increased protection against edge swelling.

In-floor heating system

In general, all EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is suitable for installation on in-floor heating systems.

The following points must be observed:

1. Prior to installation, all underfloor heating systems should have been subjected to a heating and cooling process, or respectively a functional test. Corresponding protocols prepared by the heating system contractor are to be submitted for this purpose.
2. A maximum surface temperature of 28 °C (82.4 °F) applies for all heating systems.
3. To ensure a certain inertia during heating and cooling, and thereby the possibility of the flooring adaptation to temperature changes, the heating system must either be integrated into the underfloor construction, or be equipped with a corresponding control unit.

The determination of the thermal transfer resistance is a requirement for CE certification, and is documented in the corresponding declaration of performance. The thermal transfer resistance is 0.09 m² k/W for EGGER cork⁺ flooring and 0.08 m² K/W for MEGAFLOOR cork⁺ flooring.

Installation as a floating floor

EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is installed without a fixed connection to the sub floor, which means that the individual flooring elements are only connected to each other by means of the tongue and groove (JUST *clic!* installation system). This is referred to as floating installation. Like all organic materials, EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is subject to certain movement behaviours (shrinking/expanding) due to fluctuating room climate conditions. Movement of the finished, installed floor is not affected if allowance is made with sufficiently dimensioned expansion joints to all fixtures. For rooms of normal size, expansion joints with a width of 8 – 10 mm (0.31” – 0.39”) should be formed towards all fixed structural components such as walls, door frames, pipe conduits, pillars and stairways etc.

Installing / installation instructions

Prior to installation, obtain more information at www.egger.com or from your copy of the product description.

Joints

EGGER flooring products with cork⁺ technology are organic products. At a relative humidity below 40 %, shrinkage due to the loss of moisture may therefore be so severe that the flooring no longer responds as a “pane” but rather in its single elements. This can lead to the formation of visible gaps. In our installation instructions, we therefore specify that the ambient air temperature should be at least 18° C with relative humidity between 40 % and 70 % before, during and after installation.

Kitchens

EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology can be installed in kitchens for private residential use without any problems. The surface is correspondingly robust and tough. Since increased exposure to moisture and liquids can be expected in kitchens over the course of normal use in some cases, applying a sealing glue along the edges during installation is definitely recommended. Setting up heavy pieces of furniture such as built-in kitchens and cabinets before laying down the flooring is also recommended on a case-by-case basis, subsequently installing the EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology only up to underneath the skirting. This prevents unbalanced loads and fixation of the floating floor installation and also makes subsequent removal straightforward.

Laying direction

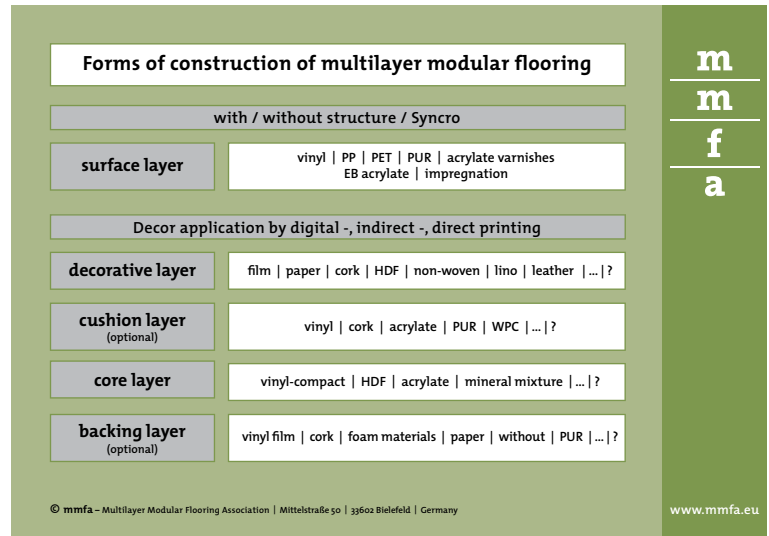
Element flooring looks best when the panels are installed parallel to the light direction. If board flooring has been used as a sub-floor, the laminate flooring must be laid at right angles to the boarding. Depending on the room situation, the visual appearance can be influenced by the installation direction.

Light-fastness

EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is resistant against UV radiation (sunlight).

MMFA

Verband der mehrschichtigen modularen Fußbodenbeläge e.V. (Multilayer Modular Floor Covering Association), Bielefeld. Founded in the year 2012, the MMFA has now published the draft standard prEN 16511 “Loose-laid panels – Multi-layer semi-rigid floor covering (MSF) panels with wear resistant top layer”. It establishes the product properties, classification requirements and test methods, which are also used to classify our flooring with cork⁺ technology due to its composition and characteristics.



Moisture barrier

When EGGER cork⁺ flooring elements are installed over a concrete sub floor, note that possible residual moisture in the sub floor may rise to the surface. Installing a PE film with a thickness of 0.2 mm (0.008”) as a moisture barrier over mineral floor substructures (except for mastic asphalt) is considered the industry standard, since these floor substructures can absorb, store, transport and release moisture. The vapour barrier must be installed over the entire surface, properly and professionally, with a 20 cm (7.87”) overlap between the courses, and extending up the walls so that it is subsequently behind the skirting. ATTENTION: Do not install a PE film over sub floors made of wooden floor boards, wood chipboard or wood fibreboard.

MSF

Multi-layer semi-rigid floor covering (MSF) panels with wear resistant top layer.

Office chair

In general, EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is suitable for the use of chair and furniture rollers. Please note that these must correspond to the type “W” (soft). Ask your specialist dealer for more information. As an alternative, fitted office chair underlays can also be used on these floor coverings.

Processing

All conventional wood processing tools can be used for processing (cutting to length, adjusting, sawing, drilling). Cutting to length may also be done using what is known as “laminated punches or shears”.

Quality

Quality comes first at EGGER. In our company, we work with highly modern technologies, in keeping with the latest quality standards and requirements. EGGER has an excellent quality management system and is certified according to ISO 9001.

Reaction to fire and classification

The classification of floor covering flammability in so-called flammability classes. EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is tested according to DIN EN 11925-2 and DIN EN 9239-1, and is classified as according to DIN EN 13501-1 as follows: EGGER cork⁺ flooring as Euro-class Bfl-s₁ and MEGAFLOOR cork⁺ flooring as Euro-class Cfl-s₁. Both classifications confirm that these are low flammability building products with low smoke development.

Euro-class according to EN 13501-1	Possible sub-classes	Prior building material class according to DIN 4102	Description
A1	-	A1	No flammability
A2	s1, s2 or s3 and d0, d1 and d2	A2	No flammability
B	s1, s2 or s3 and d0, d1 and d2	B1	Low flammability
C	s1, s2 or s3 and d0, d1 and d2	B1	Low flammability
D	s1, s2 or s3 and d0, d1 and d2	B2	Normal flammability
E	d2	B2	Normal flammability
F	-	B3	High flammability

Resistance against impressions

Thanks to the high quality of the coreboard and the high density, elastic surface layer (cork⁺ technology), EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is highly resistant against impressions. According to the EN 423 standard, our flooring achieves an impression resistance of ≤ 0.3 . Thanks to the elasticity of the natural product cork, the cork cells expand again after being subjected to pressure and regain their original shape in many cases. At the same time, the elastic coating composition prevents the decor and wear layer from breaking under point loads.

Resistance to stains

Tough stains can be removed with commercial solvents such as white gas (benzene) or thinner. These products will not damage your flooring with cork⁺ technology in any way. However, always apply the solvents with a cloth and never directly onto the laminate flooring, and subsequently neutralise with water. Please ensure sufficient ventilation.

Room climate conditions

Before, during and after installation, the ambient air temperature should be at least 18° C with relative humidity between 40 % and 70 %.

Sealing glue

For commercial installations, sealing glue must be applied along the edges of the elements (see our installation instructions for more detailed information). This sealing glue provides additional, excellent protection against edge swelling due to moisture / liquids. Sealing glue is not required for residential applications.

Skirtings

You require skirting to finish the gap between the flooring and walls for a harmonious overall appearance. You will find the matching solution in the EGGER accessories programme.

Stairs

The installation of flooring with cork⁺ technology on stairs is possible with the EGGER stairway profile system.

Strips

Profiles are required to cover transitions, seams and expansion joints among others. You will find the matching solution in the EGGER accessories programme (also see expansion joints). In general, transition mouldings should be installed on door thresholds, in angled rooms and in case of individual room lengths or widths of more than 10 metres (32.81').

Sub floor

The vendor within the scope of its duty of care and due diligence should verify that the sub floor has been prepared for installation in accordance with normal sub floor preparation procedures and accepted tolerances within the flooring industry. This means that the sub floor must be dry, even, clean and able to provide a supporting surface.

Suitable sub floors:

- all types of screed including hot water-heated screed
- chipboard constructions
- fibreboard
- floor coatings such as PVC, linoleum, natural stone slabs and ceramic tiles

Suitable sub floors subject to restrictions:

- Electric in-floor heating systems
(control of the surface temperature and output)

Unsuitable sub floors:

- textile floor coverings
- Sub floors not prepared for installation in accordance with normal procedures and accepted tolerances within the flooring industry

Surcharge qut. based

Impact sound is the sound generated when walking on flooring, which is perceived in rooms on lower levels. Thanks to the sound insulating properties of the natural material cork and the cork underlay applied to the reverse side, our flooring with cork⁺ technology achieves impact sound reduction of up to 14dB (according to EN ISO 140-8). No additional impact sound underlay is required due to the cork mat applied to the reverse side.

Surface

The surface of our flooring with cork⁺ technology consists of a durable wear layer, which retains its beauty for many years provided that a few rules of conduct and care instructions are followed. A few basic rules for the maintenance of this type of flooring are listed below:

1. Sharp and pointy objects such as dirt, sand and / or stones may stick to your shoes. These can be efficiently eliminated by means of suitable door mats at exterior doors. Pets with very sharp toenails may also cause scratches.
2. The legs on furniture (chairs, tables, wardrobes etc.) should be equipped with adequate protection. Felt pads or felt furniture glides are commonly used. Ensure that sand and stones do not stick to the protective covering on furniture legs.
3. "Mobile" furniture such as office chairs, sofas and easy chairs must be equipped with soft rollers. Hard or damaged rollers may cause scratching. Also ensure that the rollers can turn freely. If all of this is not possible, please use suitable protective mats as underlay.
4. When moving heavy pieces of furniture, you should lift them rather than sliding them.
5. When using a vacuum cleaner, also check that the rollers and suction opening are undamaged and not too hard, and that the rollers can turn freely.
6. Never use abrasives or scouring agents on the floor.
7. The use of steam and / or wet cleaning equipment is also not permitted. The surface coating is a protective layer for the cork wear layer underneath and is subject to natural abrasion and wear due to normal use. This means that the natural wear of this protective layer is no cause for guarantee claims.

Swelling

Swelling along the edges is usually due to moisture and / or liquids penetrating the joints between the elements from above. This moisture / liquid must act on the surface / joints between the elements for an extended period of time in order to cause swelling.

Thermal conductivity

Thermal conductivity is the ability of a material to conduct heat and is therefore responsible for the perception of heat and cold. With high thermal conductivity, we perceive the material as being colder; with low thermal conductivity, we perceive the material as being warmer. Because of the air pockets in the cork material, our flooring with cork⁺ technology warms to room temperature over time. Therefore it is always pleasantly warm underfoot, whether in combination with an in-floor heating system or not.

Thermal resistance

Thermal resistance (unit: m² K/W) is the resistance of a structural component to the transmission of heat. The greater this value is, the better the insulation characteristics are. In order not to impair heating performance, the thermal transfer resistance of the floor structure (floor surface + insulation underlay) should not be more than 0.15 m² K/W for the installation of flooring on a hot water in-floor heating system. The thermal transfer resistance (m² K/ W) was determined according to the EN 12667 standard. It is 0.091 for EGGER cork⁺ flooring and 0.08 for MEGAFLOOR cork⁺ flooring.

Underlay Materials

Our flooring with cork⁺ technology is equipped with integrated sound-proofing cork underlay at the factory. This means separate sound-proofing underlay is not required when installing this type of flooring. Only a PE film with a thickness of 0.2 mm (0.008") always has to be installed over mineral floor substructures (except for mastic asphalt).

Usage classes

Quality category and classification according to the European draft standard prEN 16511 "Loose-laid panels – Multi-layer semi-rigid floor covering (MSF) panels with wear resistant top layer". EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is tested according to prEN 16511:2012 and, based on the results, classified and designated as usage class 31.

Which product can be assigned to what class depends on the following criteria:

- Abrasion resistance
- Shock resistance
- Residual impression
- Resistance to stains
- Swelling behaviour

Comparison of the classification requirements for NK 31:

		MSF (EGGER cork ⁺ / MEGAFLOOR cork ⁺)	Laminate flooring
European standard		prEN 16511:2012	EN 13329
Usage classes		31	31
Abrasion resistance		≥ 600 revolutions	≥ 2000 revolutions
Shock resistance	large sphere	≥ 800 mm	≥ 800 mm
	small sphere	no requirement	≥ 8 N
Chair roller resistance		no requirement	no visible changes or damage (Type W)
Effects of a furniture leg		no requirement	no visible damage (leg type 0)
Resistance to glowing cigarettes		no requirement	Level 4
Residual impression		≤ 0,3 mm	No visible change, i.e. ≤ 0.01 mm (0.0004")
Resistance to stains, levels per group		Groups 1 and 2: Rating 4 Group 3: Rating 3	Groups 1 and 2: Rating 5 Group 3: Rating 4
Swelling in %		≤ 20	≤ 18

Classification requirements according to prEN 16511:2012

Class (EN ISO 10874)	21/22	23	31	32	33	34	Test method
			EGGER cork* MEGAFLOOR cork*				
Abrasion resistance IP cycles	≥ 200	≥ 400	≥ 600	≥ 1200	≥ 2000	≥ 4000	ISO 24338 process A
Abrasion resistance IP cycles	≥ 500	≥ 1000	≥ 1500	≥ 3000	≥ 5000	≥ 7000	ISO 24338 process B
Shock resistance mm	≥ 400	≥ 600	≥ 800	≥ 1200	≥ 1600	≥ 1800	ISO 24335 (large sphere)
Micro-scratch resistance class	-	-	-	≤ MSR-A3, ≤ MSR-B3,	≤ MSR-A2, ≤ MSR-B2,	≤ MSR-A2, ≤ MSR-B2,	EN 16094
Chair roller resistance	-	-	-	10,000 cycles ^a	25,000 cycles ^a	25,000 cycles ^a	EN 425 (soft roller)
Effects of a furniture leg	-	-	-	No visible damage	No visible damage	No visible damage	EN 424 (stamp type 0)
Residual impression	≤ 0,3 mm	≤ 0,3 mm	≤ 0,3 mm	≤ 0,2 mm	≤ 0,2 mm	≤ 0,15 mm	EN ISO 24343-1
Resistance to stains, levels per group	Water, coffee and cleaning agent (10 min.): Rating 4	Water, coffee and cleaning agent (10 min.): Rating 4	Groups 1 and 2: Rating 4 Group 3: Rating 3	Groups 1 and 2: Rating 5 Group 3: Rating 4	Groups 1 and 2: Rating 5 Group 3: Rating 4	Groups 1 and 2: Rating 5 Group 3: Rating 4	EN 438-2: Group 1 only 10 min.
Swelling in %	≤ 20	≤ 20	≤ 20	≤ 18	≤ 18	≤ 12	ISO 24336
Joint strength ^b kN/m	-	-	-	Length ≥ 1.0 Angle ≥ 2.0	Length ≥ 1.0 Angle ≥ 2.0	Length ≥ 1.0 Angle ≥ 2.0	ISO 24334
Changing climate conditions	-	-	-	-	-	ΔWavg, Δlavg: ≤ 0,10% -0,30% ≤ Cavg ≤ 0,40% JLavg, JSavg ≤ 0,10 mm hlavg, hsaveg ≤ 0,15 mm	ISO 24339
^a No surface disruption, only gloss change, no layer separation, cracks or destruction ^b Only for loosely installed boards							

The classification requirements are supplemented by the general requirements (geometric characteristics) of the elements similar to laminate flooring according to EN 13329 / EN 15468.

Walking safety according to EN 14041 (EN 13893)

EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology is a floor covering that is safe for stepping and walking, not too smooth and therefore does not pose a risk of slipping. According to EN 13893, it has a coefficient of sliding friction μ of 0.51 and is therefore classified in the technical class DS according to EN 14041.

Warping

In most cases, warping of the flooring is caused by a lack of or insufficiently wide expansion / movement gaps. Even minimum contact points are sufficient to cause warping of individual elements at a different location.

Warranty and guarantee

Apart from the statutory warranty / product liability period, which for example is 2 years in Germany, a guarantee declaration represents voluntary additional performance by the manufacturer. For EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology, we guarantee triple security:

1. Resistant against permanent stains – easy to clean and care for
2. Resistant against fading of the decor image
3. Durable, beautiful decor image for many years thanks to the robust surface

For details and further information on specific guarantee provisions and periods, please consult our EGGER guarantee declaration!

Winter garden

The installation of EGGER flooring with cork⁺ technology in winter gardens is possible if the room in question has a normal residential climate. Ideally the relative humidity is 50 – 60 % and severe temperature fluctuations are avoided.

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