

DISMANTLING AND DISPOSAL OF ELASTICALLY BONDED WOOD FLOORING (UG 13)

With the high market shares of elastic (polymer) adhesives, in particular for bonding multi-layer or ready-to-lay wood flooring, the question also arises of how to professionally dispose of the parquet. Even if, in addition to its convenience and its acoustic and design advantages, the argument for full-surface parquet bonding, is always rightly put forward as its longevity and ability to be renovated, it should be borne in mind that many parquet floors are completely replaced after a certain period of use. This may be in order to achieve a new look, or due to a change in use or simply the result of differing taste of new residents. The fact, however, is that a large number of well stucked floors are removed and in most cases replaced by new parquet flooring. Similarly, severe damage or water damage can make it necessary to replace an otherwise still stucked floor.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF ELASTICALLY BONDED FLOORS

While in conventional, i.e. hard or shear-resistant bonding, old floors are usually torn out with more or less brute force using a pry bar or nail puller, pure physical strength or with the aid of a machine, this is hardly possible with elastic adhesive. The elastic mechanism of the adhesive base not only effectively "cushions" the tensions of the wood acting on the substrate, but also the forces used to remove the parquet. In addition, even in the event of extreme damage to the parquet itself, the actual adhesion between the wood and the adhesive substrate is usually still intact. The process of simply "tearing out" an old wooden floor now involves quite a considerable effort, which in unfavourable cases can even exceed the time taken to actually lay it in the first place.

SUGGESTIONS FOR REMOVING ELASTICALLY BONDED WOOD FLOORING

Since elastic adhesives are relatively soft despite the firm bond between the wood flooring and the substrate, techniques that cut open the adhesive joints are recommended to remove the flooring. This can be done with sharp blades that are inserted underneath the wood flooring. Ideally, this should be done using hydraulic, electric or pneumatic power equipment with specially shaped cutting blades. An example of this is the pneumatic "VOGT Hammer" made by VOGT Baugeräte GmbH, which, equipped with a special serrated blade, allows relatively rapid removal of elastically bonded flooring. Now there are powerful devices from other manufacturers and other types, up to small excavator-like mobile devices.

However, an electrically operated "stripper", which is otherwise used to remove resilient or textile coverings, can also be used to remove elastically bonded parquet flooring. It is a good idea to cut into the wood at right angles to the direction of installation. The space left between cuts depends on the "depth of penetration" of the "stripper" and/or sharpness and widthness of blade. Without making cuts into the surface, the machine would jam when attempting to remove larger flooring elements. Levering off, as is possible with lance-like pneumatic devices, is usually not possible in this case.

SPECIFICS OF REMOVING WOOD FLOORING

Since the adhesive joint is cut open with the method recommended above, there are even some advantages over the previous method of tearing out the parquet:

- ✓ The parquet removed is only contaminated with attached adhesive and lacquer layers, the otherwise usual adhesion of break-outs of the upper screed edge zone or a filler layer can be avoided.
- ✓ This means that the parquet removed can be utilised as "Category A II" waste wood for material or thermal recycling in accordance with the Waste Wood Ordinance (German: Altholzverordnung). The usual disposal as building rubble or similar waste in a landfill can therefore be dispensed with.
- ✓ The already positive ecological balance of a wooden floor can be significantly improved by the capacity to recycle the dismantled parquet sensibly.
- ✓ By removing the parquet from the subfloor without harming it, there are usually no break-outs of the screed or the levelling compound. There is no need to level the entire surface of the damaged subfloor, so laying new parquet is much less time-consuming than before.
- ✓ The adhesive residues adhering to the substrate can be removed from the surface using appropriate scrapers with a sharp blade, and it is possible to successfully remove adhesive residues even using rotating wire brushes under the usual disc sanding machines. The adhesive residues in the pores of the screed can, of course, be recovered with adhesive of the same type after customary and careful inspection of the screed.
- ✓ Only in exceptional cases, such as for subsequent levelling, is it necessary to apply an additional primer or mill off the screed surface.

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

SUMMARY

All in all, elastic bonding with modern, solvent-free, environmentally and installer friendly materials offers advantages not only for the duration of use, but also beyond the actual lifetime of the parquet floor. It is important that these advantages are retained when the parquet is dismantled and that the apparent disadvantages in comparison with classic rigid bonding prove to be irrelevant in view of the appropriate level of expertise of the installers and craftsmen and the use of suitable working methods.

The information provided above corresponds to the current state of the art. The information is purely indicative and non-binding, since we have no control over the installation process and because the actual installation conditions on site vary. Therefore no claims can be made based on this information. The same is true for the commercial and technical advisory services that are provided without obligation and free of charge. We therefore recommend carrying out sufficient testing of your own in order to determine whether the result is suitable for the intended purpose. 092022