



Topic: Performance Classification for Laminate Flooring

The Customer is King

Buying Tips for Laminate Flooring

Everybody wanting to buy laminate flooring is confronted with a vast variety of products. Walnut, cherry, beech or maple? HDF or MDF? Should it be a product for 9.80 € or 22,90,- €? Who can make head or tail of it? How do consumers distinguish which product is right for their purpose?

There is no rule but there are some helping features to assist the customers' buying decision. Easy to read classification symbols on the packaging give a clear indication which product is best for his particular application, because it is certainly a difference, if laminate flooring is used in the living-room or bedroom, a staircase or the visitors toilet. Flooring in a living room is more frequented than in a bedroom, a staircase usually has more traffic than the living room. This has led to the enclosure of usage classifications into the Euro-standard for laminate flooring, EN 13329, using the above mentioned symbols which should be displayed on every package.

More Transparency for the Consumer

There are seven usage classifications in numerical order: 21, 22, 23 – 31, 32, 33, 34. Classifications 21 – 23 are dedicated to the area of private living, 'domestic', the classifications 31 – 34 are used in the public area, 'commercial'. Each area is dissected in three intensity brackets 'moderate, general, and heavy'. Example: Class 21 domestic – moderate usage, class 22, domestic – general usage, etc. Bed- and visitors rooms for example are in class 21, living-rooms and dining rooms in class 22, staircases, entrance halls and kitchen in class 23. The most important step buying laminate flooring is to define the exact application of the flooring because this determines the usage classification for which the product has to be chosen.

But what does this really mean? What are the criteria of this classification? One important point is certainly the abrasion resistance. But surely that is not all. Criteria like impact resistance, resistance to staining, resistance to cigarette burns, effect of a castor chair, and the thickness swelling of the flooring are part of its classification. To be on the safe side choose flooring with a clearly visible performance classification following EN 13329. This shows that one looks at a product which was tested according to the standard and which fulfils all of the criteria. This product will pay for itself in the long term.

More information about performance classifications following EN 13329 from:

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