

Installation of parquet on *Elastilon®*

My wife and I decided to lay parquet in two rooms (12 m² and 14 m²) on the first floor of our country house. We wanted to be able to see a beautiful parquet floor as quickly as possible. As the rooms are relatively small, we wanted to lay the parquet without bevelled edges, so that it would have a homogeneous appearance and would make the rooms appear larger.

We considered two variants: Either pre-finished 3-layer parquet with an oiled surface or laying solid planks without bevelled edges that we would then oil. We were not able to find any three-layer, oiled, single strip, pre-finished parquet. Nevertheless, we don't regret this for a minute, because we found a more environmentally-friendly variant – solid oak planks from the Feinex Vollholzböden Classic range, 108 mm wide, in mixed lengths (300 – 2200 mm), without bevelled edges.

The most important question for us was how quickly could the parquet be laid, and whether it would be necessary to call in a professional parquet layer to carry out the work. As it turned out, most of the professional parquet layers that we contacted had too much work to do in August, and, in the best case, could only come to us in 2-3 weeks time. We also had the impression that those who said that they were prepared to carry out the whole job appeared to be non-specialists, who were unable to discuss all the advantages and disadvantages of different types of parquet with us over the telephone. We therefore decided to lay the parquet in the rooms ourselves. We read the information about Elastilon® – a self-adhesive foam underlay that makes it possible to lay solid wooden floors directly onto concrete floors, and that also ensures noise reduction and works as a moisture barrier. After consulting a salesman, we ordered 27 m² of Elastilon® (taking the cutting waste into account) and started laying.

I laid the parquet working together with my step-father. We first cleaned the room. It became clear that our concrete base was a little uneven, and that there were small irregularities and stones that had to be levelled. The Elastilon® salesman had told us that the tolerance for the grain shrinkage of the surface should not be more than 2% per 1.5 metres (i.e. 3 mm per 1.5 metres). As it later turned out, this recommendation only applies for continuous unevenness, and if a 3-5 mm stone protrudes from the composition floor, it is better to remove it. We found a simple method – all domed defects were levelled out using a hammer und electrical tools, and we left all hollow unevenness unchanged (there were not so many of these).

It was explained to us that Elastilon® is laid on a substrate with a moisture level of no more than 3 %, and that, in principle, the grain shrinkage should dry out after a month with good weather. We did not measure the moisture level because we did not have any of the necessary instruments for this. After a period of 30 days, it was nevertheless clear to see that the concrete was really dry. As it was hot outside, we covered the composition floor with a piece of foil in any case. We checked whether it was dry in the evening.

It was already noon when we finished the room cleaning and the levelling of the floor. At the start of the parquet laying, we spread out a polyethylene foil with an overlap of

approx. 20 cm, and fixed the individual pieces of foil together with adhesive tape. We then checked the floor surface again, to ensure that it did not contain any small stones and no major unevenness (you can see this better under the foil).

We then spread out the Elastilon®, carefully but without overlap, with the adhesive side upwards and vertically in relation to the parquet planks. We then removed the protective layer over the length of two plank rows and laid a normal, double-folded foil over it. We had glued this foil so that it could be easily pulled out from under the planks in the laying direction. We then laid the first two plank rows on this foil. We coated the front side of each plank with D3 adhesive (we used the Tarkett D3 parquet adhesive).

When laying the first row, we also ensured that the plank joints were not opposite each other and that the distance between the joints was not less than 15 cm (in order to achieve a better appearance and to ensure a more solid construction). When the first row had been laid, we took wedges and secured these along the wall, so that the parquet planks lay 15 mm from the wall and the wedges were braced. We then hammered down the planks, pressed them against the wedges and started to carefully pull the foil from underneath the planks.

The parquet was glued down! We then made use of the protective foil of the Elastilon® roll, which we bent back and on which we then laid the next plank row. After laying each row, we pulled off the protective foil so that 2-3 cm of the foil remained under the last plank (in this way, it was also much easier to lay the next plank rows).

We did not need to use a saw until the last few rows. As we had the planks in different lengths, there was no problem in selecting the planks so that their lengths were as close as possible to the maximum length of the room (+/- 10 cm). The laying was very quick, and we finished the work at around 6 o'clock in the evening. After the laying, we pressed in the last row with the wedges, and the room was completely laid with parquet by 7 o'clock.

We laid the parquet in our second room using three people, and finished it in less than 1 day. Thanks to Elastilon®, it was possible to lay solid planks by ourselves. The laying process was very quick and simple, and we are very satisfied with Elastilon®. The result is that our floors are exactly as we wished! We would therefore recommend anyone who wants to have an environmentally-friendly floor to lay solid planks on Elastilon®.

Please visit www.1a-parkett.com for the original German letter.