

press release

## PARQUET IN THE BATHROOM

*Natural parquet creates warmth in bathrooms*

Using parquet flooring in the kitchen is now common practice. It enables fluid transitions from the kitchen to the living and dining room, creating an impression of open space. However, parquet is also used with increasing frequency in bathrooms. This is due to its visual effect, and because we often walk barefoot in the bathroom, which is much more pleasant if the floor is made out of wood. Bathrooms are no longer just places of daily hygiene: in today's hectic lifestyle, they have become havens to which we retreat and where we take refuge. As a result, more and more attention is paid to creating bathrooms with a cosy atmosphere. Thanks to certain aspects of parquet, it can be an excellent type of bathroom flooring.



Wood is an outstanding material for creating a pleasant ambiance. It exudes warmth and emits comfort. Installing wooden floors in the bathroom has become an option that is increasingly in demand. The central question here is the choice of wood, because certain types, including softwood (wood from coniferous species), are not at all suited for this purpose. Humid rooms require very hard types of wood such as oak, because of how little it swells and shrinks due to moisture and air humidity. Other important aspects include proper surface treatment, installation, and care. If you choose a prefinished parquet, it is already water-resistant, because the surface has been treated during production. Both natural oiled and lacquered products are suitable for this. Natural oil permeates the pores of the wood, but allows the parquet to breathe. A lacquer seals the surface completely. Regardless of the surface treatment you go for, professional installation is essential. The parquet floor must be glued-down and sealed across the entire surface by a professional parquet installer. The initial treatment also secures the kerfs, so that no moisture can accumulate underneath the floor or in cracks. Regular re-oiling is important for natural oiled parquets.

Persistent moisture and a constant air humidity of more than 70 percent must be avoided. If there is a window, make sure to ventilate the bathroom regularly. For bathrooms that have no access to daylight, good air circulation is very important. If the floor is made out of real wood, the perceived room temperature is one to two degrees higher than the actual one. However, the most important detail is not to flood the bathroom with water, to quickly remove any puddles, and to ensure that the ambient air is well-balanced. If you follow these instructions, you will enjoy parquet in your bathroom for years to come.

In summary, the most important factors in ensuring longevity for your bathroom parquet are the choice of wood, professional installation and proper initial treatment.

# BAUWERK®

## Parquet

### Interview with Christoph Piffer (BMP Architektur, AT)

Piffer designed the entire wellness landscape using Bauwerk parquet for the famous Embachhof – Puradies Hotel in Leogang (Austria). His architecture firm places high value on natural materials and high-quality products. Piffer has used parquet for wet rooms both in private homes and in various hotel projects. He had the following to say on the topic of using parquet in the bathroom:

*“Bathrooms and spa zones should create a pleasant atmosphere. Equipped with parquet, these rooms get a completely different look. The use of natural material is of major value for our firm, and their tactile feel is an important reason why. Wooden floors create natural warmth and are visually impressive. We recommend high-quality, high-density hardwood for designing bath landscapes, because it is best at preventing the ingress of water. Soft conifer woods quickly absorb moisture and are rather poorly suited to this.”*

*“Although the use of parquet in bathrooms is a well-established practice, many people are still sceptical. Our experience with various projects leads me to believe that these concerns are unjustified. If a product works for the hotel industry, that means that it is always suited for household use: a hotel environment is many times more demanding than that of a private home.”*

### Company profile: Bauwerk Parquet

Bauwerk Parkett is a Swiss company with a long tradition of making parquet with reliability and precision, satisfying even the most demanding requirements. Bauwerk is proud of its origins, but also focuses on innovation. The company has undergone many changes in recent years, and is now taking a new path. From its origins as a technology and product-oriented enterprise, it has become market-oriented, working to promote issues such as healthy living, sustainability and design.

More than 60 percent of all Bauwerk products are made in St. Margrethen (Switzerland). Bauwerk Parkett AG has two additional factories: in Kietaviskes (Lithuania, since 2014) and Đurđevac (Croatia, since 2017). Bauwerk's range includes more than 350 products: from two- and three-layer to massive parquet. In 2018, Bauwerk sold some 4 million square metres of parquet.

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