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SHORT REPORT

Basic ruling for information processing on questions of healthy construction and living in connection with interior decorating materials.

Building materials, interior decorating materials, furniture and fittings influence the quality of the air in rooms through diffused substances. The pollution of interior air can in turn lead to a variety of illnesses and complaints.

A basic standard for the evaluation of harmful properties in building materials could be information on materials which are dangerous to health such as those contained in the TLV (threshold limit value) list for working areas. They cannot however be transferred directly to residential accommodation, as the values here should be kept considerably lower.

Building materials fulfilling the following criteria should thus preferably be chosen:

- no damaging effects to life through gases, dust or radiation in the excavation, production, transport, use and disposal of the product
- small primary energy content
- no significant increase in human exposure to radiation due to the natural radioactivity caused by building materials
- high diffusion and absorption capability of building materials towards steam and gases, with the exception of special purposes such as interior insulation
- small consequential damage in case of fire (acids, fumes).

The investigation dealt with four building material groups which are more or less in direct contact with the air within a room: paints and lacquers, floor coverings, adhesives and heat insulation materials.

The results of the investigation are primarily aimed at architects as planners, building contractors and building supervisors, but they are so formulated that any interested layman can obtain information on individual questions connected with healthy living and building. The possibilities of utilization and practical techniques are therefore only briefly touched on., whereas health aspects during processing and utilization are dealt with in more detail.