



Den Braven

Fungi resistance of sealants

Technical Bulletin TB122013-006



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Fungi resistance of sealants

General information

Where products are used in wet areas like kitchens, bathrooms, swimming pools, abattoirs, cooling rooms, storage - and production rooms for food, fungal growth can occur.

As a result of temperature, humidity, soap residue and traces of fungi in the air fungi can start growing on wet surfaces and is difficult to remove. This can happen on sealant joints. Fungi can develop at a humidity of 60% and grow even faster at higher humidity.

Prevention of fungal growth

Good ventilation / climate control and prevention of soap residues can minimise fungal growth. This is not always possible, making the use of fungi static sealants in certain areas necessary.

The use of fungestatic sealants

Fungistatic sealants contain fungicide. This fungicide slightly dissolves in water which is how it is spread over the sealant surface. Traces of fungi that would settle on the surface of the sealant will be restricted in their growth and not be able to develop any further. Because of the slight solubility in water the fungicide will leach from the sealant over time, allowing the fungistatic properties to be lost. This will be accelerated if the areas are cleaned with warm water or water under high pressure. By using chemical cleaning agents or dissolving agents for grease the fungicide can quickly be leached out of the sealant. If aggressive detergents are used (specifically chlorinated detergents like bleach or sodium-hypo chloride), the fungicide can be attacked and become useless.





Specifications

The fungestatic properties of sealants are tested according to ISO 846 A+B. In this test a number of the most common fungi are used.

However, it is possible that fungi that are not used in the test will lead to fungal growth on the sealant.

Summary

The use of fungestatic sealants does usually prevent or minimise fungal growth on the sealant surface. However, depending on the circumstances in respect to cleaning or traces of different fungi being present in the area, it cannot be excluded that after some time fungal growth could occur on the sealant surface.

For this reason it is not possible to guarantee or give a time estimation on the performance of the fungal properties of the sealant.



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