

Entrance mat with aluminium profiles can be completely recycled

The completely recyclable "emco Ecoline Pionier" entrance mat has received the bronze Cradle to Cradle certificate. The mat consists of functional layers of materials lying in robust aluminium profiles. In the course of re-certification according to considerably more demanding environmental criteria, the mat system was bumped up a level higher from basic level. Critical for this was the fact that the entrance mat – from yarn to aluminium profiles – can be completely recycled without exception. An important role in this is played by the system developed by Emco Bau in Linden for returning the individual mat components to the closed material cycle.

With the bronze-level Cradle to Cradle certificate, the use of the entrance mat is now integrated in the evaluation criteria of the internationally recognised LEED and BREEAM building certification systems. At the same time, because of the high eco-effectiveness of the mat, the requirements of the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) are exceeded by far.

The basic idea behind the Cradle to Cradle concept is a closed material cycle modelled on nature, in which no waste whatsoever is produced. At the end of the life cycle, all resources necessary for the manufacture of a product are to be returned to the cycle again where they originated. To accomplish this, the ingredients, including all raw materials, are identified and evaluated in full. Additional factors, such as the share of renewable energy involved in production or the use of water, also play an important role in this concept. That is why the certification by the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute non-profit (California/USA) is divided into the five quality categories of "Material Health", "Material Reutilization", "Renewable Energy and Carbon Management", "Water Stewardship" and "Social Fairness". These are initially assessed individually, and then they are summarised to produce an overall rating.

The entrance mat, which is suitable for interior or covered exterior use, can be used to their credit by builders, architects and planners for purposes of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building certification system. This system classifies sustainable buildings in quality levels, based on a points system. Since version 4, to receive a point it is necessary to use a minimum of 20 products with a Cradle to Cradle bronze level or higher. Newly it is also possible to take credit for the use of products rated in this way in the Dutch BREEAM certification system.

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