

Partition walls with surface protection for a safe start at school

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On the market since June 2020, Microbe Protect, the protective varnish from Epple Druckfarben AG, Neusäß, Germany, proves the versatility and antiviral effectiveness of its active ingredient complex. For example, Schumacher Packaging has coated the corrugated cardboard partition wall EcoSafeBoard "Education Edition" with the product innovation. In times of a pandemic, the boards allow both students and teachers a safer and more comfortable start to the new school year. Epple as the manufacturer of the varnish can state: **Consistent development work pays off.**

Who finally brings pupils together and at the same time separates them in the classroom? The EcoSafeBoard 'Education Edition' from Schumacher Pack Solutions GmbH, a company of the Schumacher Packaging Group, Ebersdorf, Germany. The corrugated cardboard partition wall, placed between bank neighbours, serves as a spit protection shield, has a large viewing window and can be easily mounted on school desks. The important antibacterial and antiviral protective function is provided by the coating with the gloss varnish of Epple's product line 'Microbe Protect'. The print product thus reduces the spread of viruses by droplet infection and thereby supports hygiene concepts of schools. The development of the novel board is the result of a specific enquiry from the Bavarian grammar school Casimirianum in Coburg. Jochen Drösel, Head of Sales (CSO) at Schumacher Packaging, emphasizes: "Our EcoSafeBoard 'Education Edition' can help to prevent unnecessary infections and thus a renewed lockdown in schools".



Microbe Protect with antimicrobial active principle

With gloss varnish Finishfit Microbe Protect 2400, customers of Epple can push their product ideas forward. Schumacher Packaging, for example, has further developed the well-proven corrugated cardboard partition wall EcoSafeBoard into a model that meets the special requirements of schools and other educational institutions. The varnish Finishfit Microbe Protect 2400 contributes to a great extent to the high safety and health standards required there. It contains an additive based on a special nanosilver-containing formulation with a specially activated active ingredient. The antimicrobial active principle can be explained as follows: The elementary silver-nanoparticles firmly anchored in the varnish film release positively charged silver ions, which significantly reduce the number of bacteria and viruses on the surface of the varnish. The antimicrobial and antiviral efficacy of the active ingredient has been proven and the protection of human and environmental health is maintained. The silver-nanoparticles can neither be released nor rubbed off from the dried varnish film.

Stefan Schülling, member of the Executive Board and responsible for the divisions sales and finances at Epple: "We are pleased to make our contribution with the products of the new 'Microbe Protect' line, so that pupils and students can take part in lessons without masks and still not lose sight of infection protection". The environmentally friendly approach of the EcoSafeBoard 'Education Edition' as an alternative to plastic and glass partition walls corresponds completely to Epple's corporate philosophy. The frame of the board is made of one hundred percent recycled paper. The window film can be easily removed and put into the light material collection. The remaining parts of the partition wall are disposed of with the waste paper.

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Close and protected: The EcoSafeBoard 'Education Edition' is coated with Microbe Protect 2400 from Epple Druckfarben. © Schumacher Pack Solutions

COMPANY INFORMATION EPPLE DRUCKFARBEN AG

Epple Druckfarben AG stands for unique perfection in every detail. Since 1870, Epple has embodied permanent further development and the highest of quality demands. As the leading producer of offset printing inks, Epple has demonstrated its power of innovation with early development of mineral oil-free eco-series and special types of ink for very long washing intervals in perfecting printing. This has also been demonstrated in the sector of inks for foodstuff packaging with the patented products BoFood® MU and BoFood® Organic. PURE® is setting new standards as a third technology offset ink system, which completely avoids the use of metal dryers or photo initiators. Both sustainability and flexibility in business are top priorities at the medium-sized, family-run company. Unlike practically any other company, Epple is in the position to provide tailor made solutions for the individual requirements of their global customers.

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The Schumacher Packaging Group (www.schumacher-packaging.com) has its head office in the Bavarian town of Ebersdorf bei Coburg and specialises in tailor-made packaging solutions made of corrugated and solid board. The medium-sized, owner-run company has been one of the productivity and technology leaders in the packaging industry for many years. One important strategic advantage is that Schumacher Packaging combines a wide presence on the European market with uniformly high technology, quality and service standards at every location. Its extensive product range covers the packaging needs of many different industries and ranges from packaging for transportation, automatic machines and sales, as well as folding boxes and trays through to gift packaging and displays. Schumacher Packaging also develops and produces customer-specific, turnkey packaging solutions. In its capacity as a full-service supplier, it provides extensive services for all stages in the supply chain.

The company has been located in Ebersdorf near Coburg since it was founded in 1948. Other German production sites belonging to Schumacher Packaging are located in Bielefeld, Forchheim, Greven, Hauenstein, Schwarzenberg and Sonneberg. Five other business establishments are operated in Poland: One each in Bydgoszcz and Grudziądz and two in Wrocław; in 2016, the Group also took over a paper factory in Myszków. The Breda plant in the Netherlands is a production site for displays, the Nýrsko plant in the Czech Republic manufactures special and composite packaging, and the German site at Lehrte provides co-packing services. Most recently, in November 2019, the Group took over a packaging plant in Birmingham, United Kingdom. In the 2019 financial year, Schumacher Packaging posted an annual turnover of EUR 648 million. The Group currently has a workforce of around 3500 employees.

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