



## *Bouncing Floors - Floor Squeaks and Noises*

**Introduction:** In newly constructed homes, issues such as bouncing floors, floor squeaks, and other noises can occur due to various factors. These factors include settling of the new building, improper installation techniques, ambient conditions, and design flaws. While a bounce, squeak, and noise free home can't be guaranteed, this technical bulletin aims to provide guidance on identifying, diagnosing, and understanding these common occurrences in new construction homes.

### Identifying the Issues:

1. **Bouncing Floors:** Bouncing floors are characterized by excessive vertical movement when walked upon. This can be felt as a springy or unstable sensation underfoot.
2. **Floor Squeaks:** Floor squeaks are audible noises produced when walking on certain areas of the floor, typically caused by friction between floor components or structural movement.
3. **Other Noises:** Apart from squeaks, other noises like creaking, cracking, or popping sounds may also occur.

### Possible Causes:

1. **Subfloor Movement:** Improperly secured subflooring or inadequate support systems can lead to bouncing floors and squeaks.
2. **Moisture Content:** Fluctuations in moisture levels can cause wood components to expand and contract, resulting in gaps or movement that produce noise.
3. **Subfloor Support:** Improper spacing or missing added support of floor joists can exacerbate these issues.

### Diagnosis:

1. **Visual Inspection:** Conduct a thorough visual inspection of the flooring system, paying attention to any visible signs of movement, gaps, or structural irregularities.
2. **Listening Test:** Walk across the floors to identify areas where squeaks or noises are most prominent.
3. **Moisture Testing:** Measure moisture levels in the subfloor and surrounding areas to assess potential moisture-related issues.



## *Bouncing Floors Continued*

### Recommended Solutions:

1. **Subfloor Reinforcement:** Reinforce subflooring with additional fasteners or support beams to minimize movement and enhance structural stability.
2. **Moisture Management:** Implement moisture control measures such as proper ventilation, moisture barriers, or dehumidification systems to mitigate the effects of moisture on flooring materials.
3. **Professional Repair:** Engage qualified contractors or structural engineers to assess and address any design flaws or structural issues contributing to floor bouncing or squeaks.

### Preventive Measures:

1. **Proper Installation:** Adhere to manufacturer guidelines and industry best practices during the installation of flooring materials to minimize the risk of future issues.
2. **Regular Maintenance:** Implement a routine maintenance schedule to inspect and address any signs of wear or damage promptly.

**Conclusion:** *Bouncing floors, floor squeaks, and other noises in new construction homes can be a source of frustration for homeowners and builders alike, however, by understanding the underlying causes and implementing appropriate solutions, these issues can be effectively addressed, ensuring structural integrity, and enhancing occupant satisfaction. For specific guidance tailored to your situation, consult with qualified professionals in the construction and engineering fields.*

Technical Services Team

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