



Noise



Carpet: the best floor covering to fight unwanted noise

Noise is one of the most pervasive pollutants today.

Noise from road traffic, airplanes, construction and day to day living creates the audible 'litter' which is regularly transmitted through the air.

- Excessive noise affects mental concentration and can become an obstacle to normal activity. At extreme levels, it generates pain and loss of hearing.
- Noise disturbs sleep patterns, therefore reducing vitality and concentration. It can lead to stress which induces hormonal change and increases the production of cortisol and adrenalin. Noise can also lead to nervous, digestive and cardiovascular diseases.
- A study conducted in Berlin has shown that the risk of heart failure is increased by 30% for people living in noisy streets.

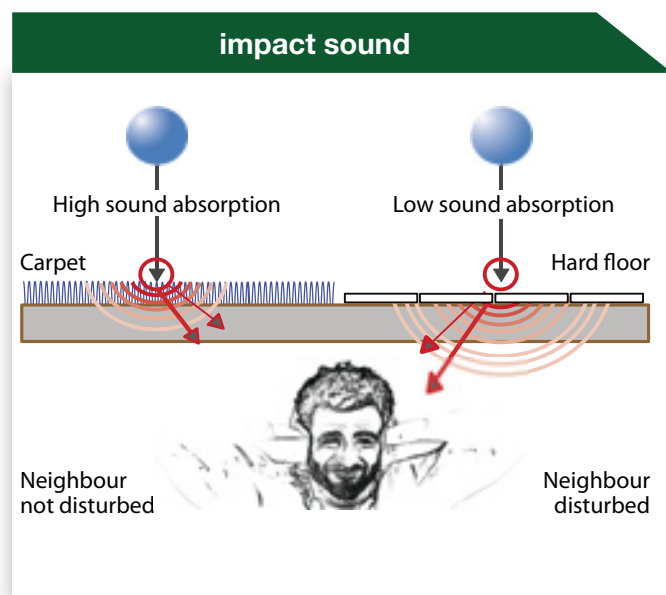
(Source: UBA, Press Release 19/2004 4)

How to keep friendly neighbours

Once noise reaches excessive levels, the impact on neighbours increases, especially that of heavy footfall which is often unavoidable.

This can lead to a strong feeling of lack of control for individuals in their own environment, even though the person upstairs may be carrying out normal living activities.

Impact noise from adjacent dwellings may also act indirectly as a catalyst towards detrimental health for a variety of reasons. The extent of the effect on health and well-being is dependent on an individual's sensitivity, general health and domestic circumstance, as well as their perceived ability to control a noise problem.



Non-auditory effects of domestic noise are identified as:

- sleep disturbance
- activity disturbance
- annoyance
- emotional response

Activities such as resting and listening to television/radio are the most common noise-disrupted activities and this unwanted noise may cause feelings of anger, depression and fear. Therefore, noise transmission between dwellings can increase tension between neighbours, sometimes leading to disputes, and in extreme cases even physical assaults.

Of all flooring materials, carpet is the number 1 noise killer

The choice of the correct flooring can make a crucial contribution to sound proofing. Carpet absorbs more airborne noise than any other floor covering, and therefore positively contributes to deadening sound reverberations and significantly enhances the feeling of well-being.



Sound level and duration

Generated sounds are lower when carpet is used than with hard flooring, and the duration of the reflected sounds is shorter.

Carpet also reduces the sounds produced within the home:

- It absorbs the sounds that bounce off the walls and furniture.
- It absorbs the sound of foot traffic.
- It creates a “soft ambiance” conducive to lowered voices.

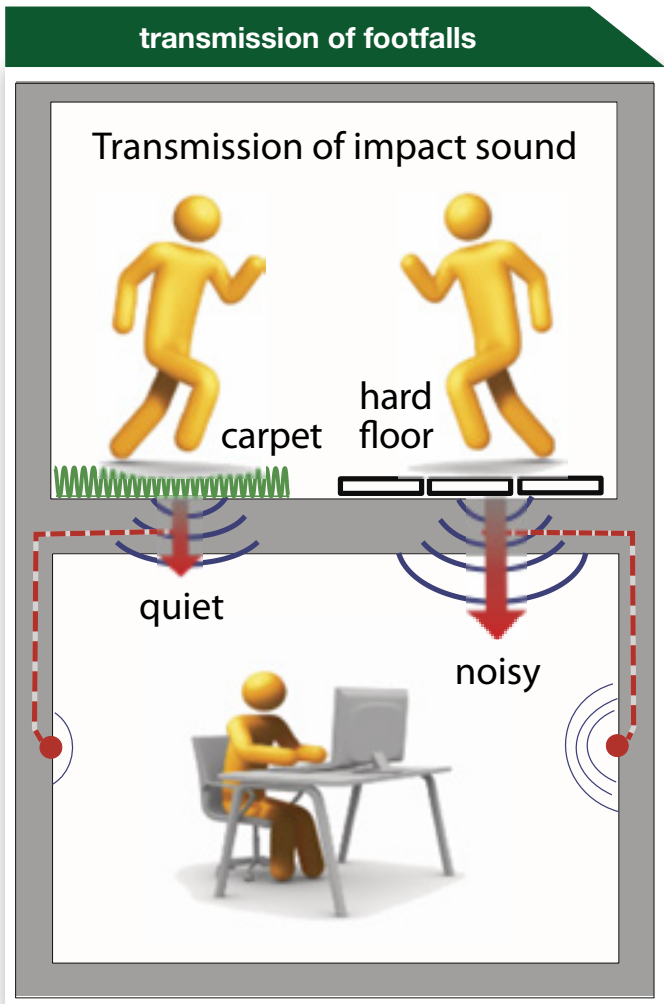
(Source: The building performance centre, Napier University, Edinburgh, 2004)

Impact Sound absorption

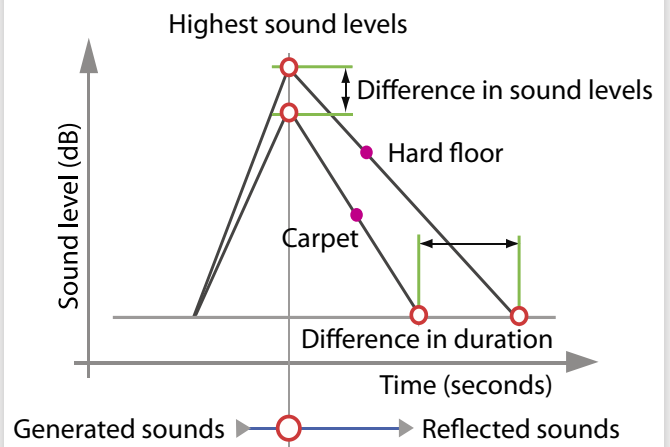
Carpet has better acoustic properties than any type of hard flooring, and as sound transmission through floors is such an important issue in combatting noise, it is an obvious choice. Impact noise (footfall) accounts for 60% of all complaints in relation to household noise studies. In addition, there are other sources of domestic noise which cause concern such as domestic appliances, lifts in communal buildings and plumbing.

How impact noise is transmitted

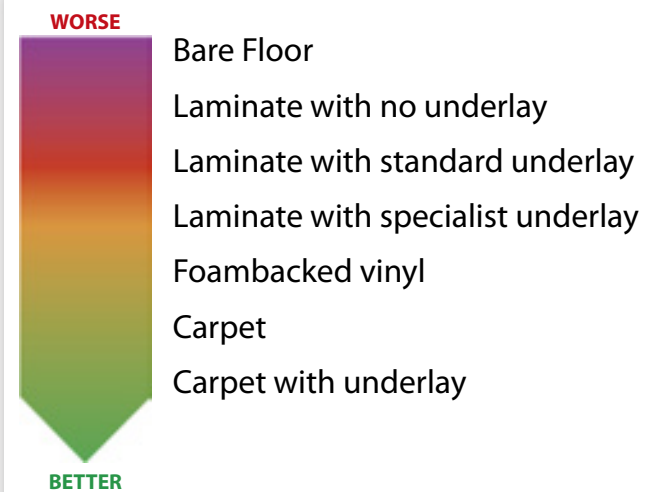
Impact noise is mainly transmitted through the floor but it can also reverberate through the walls.



room sound absorption



carpet the best flooring to fight noise



carpet
@home



GUT - Carpets tested for a better living environment

The aim of GUT (Gemeinschaft umweltfreundlicher Teppichboden e.V.) is to continuously improve environmental and consumer protection throughout the life cycle of a textile floor covering: from production, to installation, to 'in use' and end of life. GUT works in partnership with officially recognised European test houses to ensure that there is rigorous product testing on chemicals and emissions which form the basis for consumer safety. GUT/PRODIS registered products are regularly controlled on the basis of GUT's test criteria. Detailed information on testing methods and criteria can be found at www.gut-ev.org

ECRA - The European Carpet and Rug Association

ECRA is the membership organisation representing the textile floor covering industry within Europe and has a clear objective to promote a positive image for carpet both in the home and at work.

Its members are those manufacturers who either have production sites in the EU, or in those countries with a defined economic status within EU agreements. They account for 85% of the European production by volume of textile flooring.

Based in Brussels, ECRA works closely with the EU Commission to provide answers for the industry regarding new EU policies and regulation including economic, social, legal, environmental, or health and safety-related topics. ECRA draws on GUT's extensive expertise in environmental and health issues. www.ecra.eu

PRODIS means:

- Quality according to EU standards
- Tested for the consumer's health and safety
- Controlled by independent test houses

PRODIS is the first comprehensive consumer information system that integrates information on environmental issues and consumer health and safety. It also provides information carpet 'in use' and any other additional characteristics of textile floor coverings. PRODIS provides reliable information for consumers and business which is based on two elements: the GUT test system for VOC emissions and chemicals, and the Floor Covering Standard Symbols (FCSS) for use classification. PRODIS is not just a label, it is the visible sign of a renewed confidence in carpet. Carpet is not simply a solution for covering a floor, it is the best choice. www.pro-dis.info

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