

Technical Tip

Identifying and Correcting a Squeaky Wood Subfloor

Floor squeaks generally are caused by two pieces of wood rubbing against each other, or by the wood rubbing against a fastener.

Squeaks occurring near a wall

Causes:

- Lumber shrinkage around bottom/sole plate fastener

Corrections:

- Drive a wooden shim between the bottom/sole plate and top of subfloor adjacent to squeak location
- Do not overly force the shim
- Snap or cut the shim off so that it is flush with the wall

The shim wedges the small gap between the subfloor and bottom/sole plate, stops the flexing, and eliminates the squeak.

Squeaks occurring away from walls

Causes:

- Deflection of floor joists due to:
 - Inadequate, missed, or insufficient nailing of subfloor to joists
 - Insufficient or improperly applied subfloor adhesive between AdvanTech® floor panels and top of joists

Corrections:

Locate the squeak by having one person go underneath the house to indentify the area of the squeak, while another person provides the source of the squeak. Once the squeak is located, evaluate the area and use the following recommendations.

- **Gaps between pieces of wood:** coat wooden shims with wood glue, and hammer them into the gaps
- **Wood rubbing against pipe or duct:** prevent movement through the use of strapping or enlarge the hole to prevent rubbing

If you find multiple areas where the subfloor seems to be moving up and down on the joists - as opposed to the subfloor and joist moving up and down together, then one of the following products may help solve the issue.

- Squeak Ender - www.squeakender.com when access is available under the floor system.
- Squeak No More - www.squeaknomore.com for access through the surface of carpeting, vinyl or hardwood flooring.