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Do You Suffer From Squeaking Floorboards? – This Article Helps Users Understand The Best Solutions To Cure This Annoying Noise!

By Stuey Stephens

I'll start by explaining how squeaking floorboards starts.

Quite often, over a period of time, the flexing of the floor or expansion and contraction of the timber may loosen floorboard nails.

It is the resulting movement of the wood against the nails or against the neighbouring boards that produces the typical irritating squeak.

The simplest cure is to drive the floorboard nails in deeper with a nail punch, which allows the tapered edges of the nails to grip the wood more securely.

We have found that sometimes, however, this may not be a lasting solution.

If the problem persists, use either a larger or ring-shank nails. You can buy all of the items I talk about from general DIY stores – I'm sure that you will have a local store to you. Alternatively companies like Screw Fix or B&Q or other DIY stores should be able to help.

Using larger nails or ring shank nails will give a better grip as they are designed for situations like creaking floor boards; however they need to have clearance holes drilled through the boards. I would recommend you use a normal electric or hand-drill to do this.

The clearance holes must be slightly larger than the diameter of the nail to ensure that they grip the bottom of the board securely.

After you have put the nails in make sure that you fill any redundant holes with matching wood filler – the closer the colour match the better. You can almost completely disguise the nail heads this way.

If the boards can't be re-nailed satisfactorily (for example, because of twisting or bowing), use countersunk stainless-steel woodscrews.

Remember that you need to bury the heads of the screws deep enough to cover them with filler or with matching wooden plugs. I also recommend that you dampen the wood thoroughly before fixing – this makes the wood 'give' and allows the screw heads to essentially be countersunk as the boards are screwed down.

Visit Stuey at

<http://www.stueysblog.co.uk>

He is a full-time blogger on electronics, technology and DIY.

Noise in the Workplace

By Chris Hampton

The Cause:

Machinery, people and the environment all contribute to noise in the workplace.

Machinery, such as copiers, printers, fax machines, fans, air conditioner, computers, phones and many other types of specialized equipment are a source of noise in the workplace.

People, added to the above by talking, typing, moving around and moving things around in doing their work are another cause of noise in the workplace.

The environment also contributes to the noise by reflecting and amplifying noise off of hard surfaces like walls, windows or ceilings. Vehicular traffic noise and other worksites nearby also add to the din.

The Facts:

Machinery noise is low frequency. Low frequency noise can cause reduced efficiency and even make us sick. Over time, it can do damage to internal organs, if the amplitude is high enough. Sometimes, noise problems in air conditioning or air conditioning ductwork can cause the sickness rate to soar.

People noise is usually a higher frequency. Depending on the volume and pitch, this can sometimes be extremely annoying. The louder others get, the louder we get – setting off an out of control spiral of noise.

Add to this the environment – box like walls, ceilings and windows. The sounds just get louder and louder by reflecting off the hard surfaces. This creates more sickness, annoyance and reduced efficiency.

The Solution:

Reduce or eliminate the noise, either at the source or after the fact.

It would be hard to eliminate people and still run a business. Usually, there is little we can do to reduce the noise that machines make.

There are many ways to accomplish noise reduction. The best, or course, is to build the structure with noise reduction in mind. Short of that, we can do a lot to make it better.

Methods:

There are three major methods of sound reduction and control.

Masking is the use of sound to cover up the unwanted or annoying noise.

Absorption is the use of sound absorbing or sound energy conversion material to lessen noise.

Deflection is the use of sound reflective material to direct the excessive noise away.

Find out more at:

Arizona Acoustic Art

<http://www.azaart.com>

Gilbert, Arizona

inquiries@azaart.com

Chris Hampton has 25 years experience in the sound and vibration industry and being hearing impaired knows the importance of sound and noise control and conditioning.

Noise in the Workplace

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