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## 3 Steps to Ensure a Squeakless Floor

If you're like most in the construction trade, there's no better feeling related to your work than seeing the pleasure in your customers' faces when they first lay eyes on the quality work you've just completed. Unfortunately, their pleasure may be short-lived if walking on the new floor you just built them produces more squeaks than a first year clarinet student.

The same folks that tell their friends that the squeaks made by their older wooden floors are part of the charm of their home will not be thinking charming thoughts if they must explain noises made by their brand new floors. And we all know that if the people unhappy about their noisy floors are *your* customers, they're likely to tell their friends and neighbors that your company is the one responsible for their musical floors. This type of word of mouth is not helpful to the long term success of any business, including yours.

Thankfully, there are ways to avoid this situation and if construction is your game, you would be wise to take these steps to avoid creating squeaky floors. These aren't the only ways to build solid floors that don't make noise when walked on, but they are proven methods of creating long lasting, attractive, and silent flooring.

Keep in mind that the squeaks, creaks and groans heard from any floors are caused by movement of the components. The trick to avoiding these noises is the use of proper fasteners and techniques to prevent movement from happening. While it may be impossible to prevent squeaky floors forever, a well built floor constructed on a well built subfloor will stay quiet through years of family life.

Here are 3 steps to ensure a squeakless floor on your next remodeling jobs:

### 1. Build A Better Subfloor

As with most construction projects (and with most things in life), floors are only as good as the support system in place. Failure to create a sturdy and durable subfloor will create a situation where the noises the floor makes are the least of your customers' (and your), worries.

To avoid squeaking from the subfloor, ensure that the subfloor sheathing used are adequately fastened. Noise from the subfloor is most often caused by the subfloor sheathing rubbing against each other. To prevent this, ensure that you're using a high quality fastener that has been driven in far enough to create a snug hold.



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The debate has been raging for years as to which is better for constructing high quality subflooring - nails, or screws. While screws offer a longer lasting hold, they're more time consuming to use. Nails are more likely to loosen over time, especially when driven into wood which expands and contracts with the seasons, but the use of a pneumatic nail gun makes it quick and easy to drive them all the way into even the hardest of substrates.

Recent innovations by the BECK Fastener Group® have given those in the construction trade another fastener option, one that offers the hold of a screw with the ease of use of a nail. It's called SubLoc® Pro SCRAIL®, and its use can help you to save time, energy, and money while creating a subfloor that won't squeak.

### 2. Use Kiln Dried Wood For All Components

When it comes to creating squeakless wood floors, wood's greatest advantage as a building material becomes its tragic flaw. Wood has a remarkable ability to expand and contract with changes in the temperature and humidity level. While this ability allows wood to survive for years in even extreme weather conditions, it can lead to squeaky floors if care is not taken.

The wood you use to construct any part of the flooring, including the joists, subfloor or the floor itself, must be completely dry when you install it. Dry wood is contracted and allows you to get the really tight hold you need from your fasteners the first time. If you build with wood that's swollen from dampness, it will contract as it dries, leaving just enough wiggle room between the joist and the subfloor, the sheets of the subfloor, or the boards in the floor itself, to create that annoying squeak.

Kiln dried wood will expand when exposed to moisture, so care must be taken to use the right fasteners, placed close enough together, to avoid having the swelling wood loosen the fasteners. If this happens, when the wood dries and contracts again you will hear the telltale sounds of the wooden components of your flooring rubbing against each other.

BECK's SubLoc® Pro SCRAIL® fasteners work very well to prevent this from happening in subfloors. They provide you with the tight hold of a screw, one that will resist loosening no matter how much the wood expands, because they're threaded like a screw.

### 3. Use The Right Fasteners In The Right Places

Even high quality fasteners, like SubLoc® Pro SCRAIL®, that are designed to give you a tight hold that will last for years, will not prevent noisy floors if they aren't installed in the proper way.



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For squeak-less subfloors, SubLoc® Pro SCRAIL®, or other fasteners, should be installed no more than 12" apart and aligned down the center of the joists. Where edges of the subfloor sheathing meet along a joist, the fasteners should be arranged in such a way that the fasteners in one subfloor sheathing are placed in the center of the space created by the fasteners in the other subfloor sheathing. In other words, when looked at from above, the fasteners should be no more than 6" apart on alternating sides of the seam. The use of subfloor adhesive is recommended.

BECK's SubLoc® Pro SCRAIL® is a system designed especially for creating a squeak free subfloor. In addition to the threading, the fasteners used in this system have a patent pending Diamond Coating for vastly improved holding power. Easily driven in by most air driven tools available on the market, these fasteners offer the same unique advantage as all of the other SCRAIL® fasteners in that they can be just as easily removed and reused if adjustments are necessary.

If you would like to hear more about how SubLoc® Pro SCRAIL® can help you create squeak-free floors while saving time and energy, contact your local Fasco America® representative. They will be able to answer any questions you may have about how SubLoc® Pro SCRAIL® fasteners can help you create a squeak-free floor.

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