



## INSTALLATION

### SOUNDSSENSE CC 4.5 WITH ENGINEERED WOOD

Before installation make sure that all the underlay received is as per your order and that there has been no damage in transit, obviously, let us know straight away if there are any issues.

It is important to allow the underlay to acclimatise to room temperature for 24 hours prior to installation, room temperature should be at least 18°C.

The underlay should be loose laid in the installation area and cut at least 50mm over the required length and allowed to relax. During the installation period the room temperature should ideally be 18°C and the relative humidity should not exceed 75%.

In general, the working practices should be as described in the following Code of Practice:

#### *BS 8201: 2017 Code of practice for installation of wood and wood-based panels*

The following instructions are intended to act as additional notes to this code of practice and to cover or emphasise those particular details relating to the installation of Soundsense CC 4.5.

Please also refer to the specific instructions of the finished floor manufacturer.

#### **Air tightness**

Air tightness is one of the keys to effective sound insulation. Sound is carried in the air and sound will leak through any gaps or holes in an installation. So, it is very important that all gaps and holes between floors and also floors and walls are filled and properly sealed, this can be done using proprietary gap filling products and sealants. Ensure that all products used are suitable for the

particular installation and if in doubt seek the advice of the sealant or gap filler manufacturer.

#### **Perimeter isolation/flanking**

Another common problem which affects the acoustic performance of a floor is flanking. Flanking occurs when sound bypasses the main separating elements of the construction and finds acoustically weak paths.

Ideally flanking sound paths formed by the junctions between separating wall and floor constructions will have been treated in the subfloor and wall construction, thereby isolating the individual elements. However, where noise has become a problem it may be that the construction methods for these elements are pre-Part E of the Building Regulations or that the correct flanking treatment for the building has not been followed. With this in mind, and for best acoustic results it may be necessary to install a perimeter isolation strip to minimise any potential flanking to the other parts of the building structure, this includes walls and columns as well as exposed pipes and ducting.

If flanking is thought to be a particular problem, it may be necessary to seek further specialist acoustic advice.

#### **Sub Floor Conditions and Floor Preparation**

In general sub floor conditions should comply with the requirements of the Codes of Practice quoted above.

A lot of effort goes into these standards and codes of practice with the aim of getting the best installation, so our advice is to take a look at them. Basically, it says that all sub floors should be clean, dry, level and structurally sound and free



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from any cracks and contamination. All cracks and holes should be adequately repaired to ensure a smooth finished appearance, patching and levelling compounds must be suitable for the end use application and must be compatible with the adhesives to be used.

Wooden floors showing warping, shrinkage or unevenness must be made good before continuing. Wax or varnish should be removed as these treatments can affect adhesive bonds.

Asphalt floors must be isolated by applying a compatible 3mm thick surface underlayment, this avoids any chance of migration of the asphalt.

### Temperature/humidity and conditioning

The ideal indoor temperature for installation is between 18-35°C, with a maximum air relative humidity of 65%. The subfloor temperature should not fall below 10°C and it is important that the flooring and underlay are stored on site at the same temperature as the areas to be installed.

### Installation - General

Soundsense CC 4.5 must be bonded to the subfloor. It is not essential to commence installation in the centre of the room; it is generally more practical to commence along the longest wall running the rolls in parallel. Wherever possible the product should be installed so that the joints run with the direction of the main light in the installation area rather than against it. Ideally this will also be at 90° to the finished floor so that the chance of coinciding joints is minimised. The Soundsense CC 4.5 should be dry laid into workable areas and cut at least 50mm over the length required and allowed to relax for the acclimatisation period as advised above.

After acclimatisation the underlay should then be cut using a utility knife and straight edge and a gap of around 3mm should be left around the perimeter to allow for any expansion. The Soundsense CC 4.5 should not be in direct contact with any wall, column or skirting board that has not been isolated using a perimeter isolation strip.

The Soundsense CC 4.5 should be adhered to the subfloor using a recommended adhesive (please refer to the latest list of recommended adhesives) strictly in accordance with the installation instructions of the adhesive manufacturer. It is particularly important to refer to the adhesive manufacturer's advice in respect of trowel sizes, application rates/coverages and open times.

Only spread enough adhesive to cover a workable area, and after the required open time lay the Soundsense CC 4.5 into the adhesive and smooth out from the centre using a carpet glider or hand roller to ensure that the product is fully into the adhesive and all air bubbles are released.

The Soundsense CC 4.5 should then be fully rolled into the adhesive using a 68kg articulated flooring roller to ensure full adhesion along the entire length and width of the product.

All edges should be butt jointed ensuring that all seams and joints are smooth without any voids but not too tight.

### Installation – Engineered Wood

Once the Soundsense CC 4.5 is fully bonded to the subfloor, this time will depend on the adhesive used but usually after 24 hours, the Engineered Wood can be installed.



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To provide noise improvement Soundsense CC 4.5 has to have a level of resilience to absorb impact energy and as such adds a degree of softness to the overall floor. This must be born in mind for areas where critical lateral lighting may be present, also please seek advice for installation areas where there may be equipment with extreme point loading.

The engineered wood should be installed as a floating floor over the underlay, and a suitable gap around the perimeter walls, pipes and columns should be left to allow for movement. This gap also ensures that the finished floor does not come into contact with any part of the perimeter and so helps to avoid flanking problems. Consult the specific instructions of the engineered wood manufacturer for information as to the size of the expansion gap required.

Follow the instructions of the engineered wood manufacturer with regard to expansion joints and the installation of the finished floor.

Ideally the engineered wood should be installed at 90° to the Soundsense CC 4.5 so that the chance of coinciding joints is minimised.

For installation where the engineered wood is to be glued down please contact the Footfall technical department for specific advice tailored to the particular installation.

*These instructions are not exhaustive, if in any doubt please contact Footfall Flooring Ltd.*



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