



## INSTALLATION

### SOUNDSSENSE dB 300 WITH LAMINATE

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: 2011 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 dB 300 with laminate.

Please also refer to the specific instructions of the laminate 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.



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Basically, it says that all sub floors should be clean, dry, level and structurally sound and free 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.

### 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

It is not essential to commence installation in the centre of the room; it is generally more practical to commence along the longest wall. Soundsense dB 300 tiles should be butted up to the perimeter isolation strips and laid in a brick bond pattern across the floor area. The tiles should be butted tightly together to ensure there are no gaps at the joints, care should be taken not to lay the tile too tightly so as to cause peaking at the joints, which need to be level and smooth. The Soundsense dB 300 should be cut using a utility knife and straight edge. Where the Soundsense dB 300 is forming the main underlay, it should not be in direct contact with any wall, column or skirting board that has not been isolated using a perimeter isolation strip.

### Installation - Laminate

For installation under laminate the Soundsense dB 300 should be loose laid in a brick bond fashion and butted up to the perimeter isolation strips.

Joints should be taped using a compatible vapour stop tape, Soundsense dB 300 is impermeable so it is only necessary to seal the joints. Taping also helps to avoid any movement of the tiles.

The laminate should be installed as a floating floor 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 laminate manufacture for information as to the size of the expansion gap required.

For lighter weight laminates Soundsense CC 3mm can be laid over the Soundsense dB 300 to provide a denser acoustic layer as well as a good base for the laminate joints. In this instance the Soundsense CC should be adhered to the Soundsense dB 300 using an approved adhesive and ensuring that the joints do not coincide.

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

Always install the laminate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

### Permanent Installation

It may be a requirement that the acoustic floor treatment is seen to be a permanent part of the building structure, for such requirements the



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Soundsense dB 300 should be permanently adhered to the subfloor.

Soundsense dB 300 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 dB 300 into the adhesive and smooth out from the centre to ensure that the product is fully into the adhesive and all air bubbles are released, the natural weight of the product should facilitate this.

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



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