

An economical acoustic installation with cork flooring underlayment

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QR Code Link to This Post If you purchased a condo, and your HOA ask you to looking for a flooring system to achieve IIC rating of 70. We can help you meet this requirement with our cork flooring. It can be achieved with form 12mm cork underlayment (Delta IIC ratings 22 tested, IIC rate 50, estimated STC 70,) plus 12mm cork floating flooring (Estimated Delta IIC ratings 12, IIC rate 22, estimated STC 50,). First let talk about STC/IIC rating and Delta IIC ratings:

Here are the major problems with STC/IIC ratings: 1. They are easily manipulated by the manufacturer to create inflated numbers that are never achieved in the world of construction

2. They are inaccurate/useless for all but the test conditions - which means they cannot be used in any form except under the EXACT conditions the test was performed under

3. They represent the ENTIRE system - from the floor you are standing on to the layer of paint/stucco on your downstairs neighbor's ceiling (could be as much as 2 FEET worth of material)

4. Because they represent a SYSTEM you cannot have a thin 1/16" piece of blue foam offer 70 dB of noise reduction...it is physically impossible. What most manufacturers will do is use the THICKEST concrete slab (10" or 12") for the test (worth 42 dB). Then they will add a 12" drop down acoustic ceiling (worth 14 dB) and then stuff the ceiling with acoustic insulation (5 dB) and then finish with drywall (5 dB). This comes out to be 66 dB all by itself. Then they add the 1/16" underlay and a floor. Then the STC 72 is achieved. The total will be published for the underlay ONLY! Yes. The 1/16" bit of foam is rated as STC 72. In fact it is only worth 6 dB. That's how these numbers are falsified. These are the major scientific pitfalls of STC/IIC ratings. Major pit falls. The STC 70 you are talking about represents decibels. That is the VOLUME of noise. An STC 70 means 70 dB of acoustic attenuation. To be clear, a conversation between two people (standing 3 ft apart) is 60 dB. A vacuum cleaner produces 70 dB. A lawnmower is 90+ dB. A floor-ceiling assembly that kills 70 dB worth of airborne noise (vocal sounds, TV noise, etc) is impressive - and rare. Luxury condo buildings are able to achieve 70+ dB worth of acoustic insulation (up/down noise) because of the 10" - 12" of concrete they use between the units. These make up about 1% of the apartment buildings in N. America (yes...it is the same 1% of the very wealthy). For these reasons, it would be very difficult to ask condo owners to achieve STC 70 without knowing what your building already sits at. For that you would need to test several units (at the condo boards expense). This gets expensive. These issues can be put to rest simply by working with Delta IIC ratings. These are the newest "Gold Standard" in the acoustic community. And here's why: Delta IIC ratings cannot be manipulated. They are the most conservative of all, which means they are easily achievable. They represent the material making the test, so underlayment to underlayment. They are accurate. The numbers you can take from the testing floor system and use for any floor-ceiling assembly. The STC/IIC numbers are achieved by only 3% of the test chambers. A 12" concrete slab and 12" drop down ceiling.

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2. The floor product
 3. The underlayment for the floor. The test is run on then the concrete are mathematically eliminated (removed) and the number is the acoustic number associated with the floor + underlay. These numbers are HIGHLY accurate and can be added to ANY floor-ceiling assembly to come up with a "real" life number. Here is an example: a. 12" concrete slab construction building (27 dB for the concrete slab)
 b. 1/16" regular drywall (6 dB)
 c. 12mm cork underlay (22 dB)
 d. 8mm laminate (0 dB) Total rating for this setting: $27 + 5 + 22 + 0 = 54$ dB As you can see, it would be almost impossible to find an underlay that would

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help the 32 dB floor-ceiling assembly (27 dB + 5 dB) achieve an STC 70. The underlay would have to add 38 dB!!! That's nearly impossible. Now, if you add a cork floor (instead of laminate) you will add another 8 - 12 dB to the 54 dB = 62dB - 66 dB. In this situation (6" slab with a finished ceiling which is VERY common in the building industry) even my best/thickest 12mm cork underlayment won't come close to 70 dB. In your situation, as the condo owner, you would be able to argue the fact that a "regular" condo building with a required STC 70 would impose "undue hardship" on the owners. The amount of money and effort needed for a "regular" condo (4", 6" or even 8" concrete slab ceiling) would be akin to a financial impossibility for a significant amount of owners. Therefore you could propose a cork+cork option for those people looking to work with something other than carpet. The easiest way to achieve this is to SHOW the board what 1/2" cork underlay + 1 1/2" cork flooring LOOKS like. The samples we offer have impressed every condo board I have had the pleasure of working with. And for the record, carpet doesn't have a "rating". The pad has the rating. A low end carpet pad offers very little to the acoustic value of the carpet. And THAT is your BIGGEST argument! Carpet does very LITTLE for STC ratings. It only works on IIC ratings (footfalls) and even then it is the carpet PAD that does all the work. You will have a great argument if you have BAD carpet with a THIN pad. You can argue that the cork underlay (6mm cork underlay) + 12mm cork floating floor would do MORE for airborne noise than the existing "bad" carpet. You would be replacing a "bad" material with a much BETTER material. You will be happy to know that we have Delta IIC ratings (these are the Gold Standard for flooring and underlay products) for our 6mm cork underlay + 11mm cork floating flooring. We also have the Delta IIC rating for our 12mm cork underlay as well. We have successfully helped condo dwellers achieve a cork floating floor in buildings that would otherwise turn down anything other than carpet. It can be a bit of a battle, but 99% of the time we have been successful. The first thing you will need to find would be the requirements for your building. HOA or condo boards will have documents that state the bi-laws. In them, you should find the STC/IIC rating or the Delta IIC ratings. You can then start your search. Cork flooring products carry their own acoustic insulation data. We have tested the 6mm underlay + 11mm cork floating floor as a combination. The Delta IIC ratings are 20.0 dB worth of acoustic insulation. The 12mm cork underlay can achieve - all by itself - a Delta IIC rating of 22.0 dB. In the worst case scenario, we have had clients use our 12mm floating floor planks (estimated to achieve 10 - 12 dB) and the 12mm cork underlay (22.0 dB). This situation has been accepted in any setting that has a "tough" HOA board. The two products have been estimated to achieve more than 30 dB (could be as high as 34 dB). To put this in perspective a "good" acoustic floor+underlay will achieve a Delta IIC rating of 14 dB. Compare that to the Delta IIC of 30 - 34 dB. That is a massive difference. That's why we have been successful getting cork into condos. A A

Keywords: acoustic flooring, soundproofing a floor, floorsound insulation, how to soundproof floors, soundproof between floors, soundabsorbing flooring, soundproof floors, soundproofing hardwood floors condo, soundproofing a floor on a budget, soundproofing for floors, floorsoundproofing material, how to soundproof floor, sound insulation floor, floorsoundproofing products, acoustic floor tiles, flooring soundproofing, soundproofing upstairs floor, soundproof a floor, sound insulation for floors, soundproofing floors diy, floor soundproofing solutions, soundproofing flooring, floating floor soundproofing, floor acoustic insulation, acoustic floors, acoustic floor, acoustic floor insulation, soundproof flooring products, floor soundproofing materials, soundproof flooring materials, soundproofing wooden floors, , sound proof insulation, sound proofing, sounddeadening, sound insulation, soundproofing walls, noise reduction, soundproofing material, soundproofing insulation, sound deadening material, sound absorbing material, sound control, acoustic insulation, diy soundproofing, soundproof room, sound dampening, cheap soundproofing, soundproof material, soundproof apartment, sound dampening material, soundabsorption, studio soundproofing, sound deadening insulation, sound dampening insulation, room soundproofing, best soundproofing material, best sounddeadening, cheap soundproofing material, sound barrier material , acoustic soundproofing, sound insulation between floors, acoustic flooring, soundproofing a floor, floor sound insulation, how to soundproof floors, soundproof between floors, sound absorbing flooring, soundproof floors, soundproofing hardwood floors condo, soundproofing a floor on a budget, soundproofing for floors, floor soundproofing material, how to soundproof floor, sound insulation floor, floor soundproofing products, acoustic floor tiles, flooring soundproofing, soundproofing upstairs floor, soundproof a floor, sound insulation for floors, soundproofing floors diy, floor soundproofing solutions, soundproofing flooring, floating floor soundproofing, floor acoustic insulation, acoustic floors, acoustic floor, acoustic floor insulation, soundproof flooring products, floor soundproofing materials, soundproof flooring materials, soundproofing wooden floors, , sound proof insulation, sound proofing, sound deadening, sound insulation, soundproofing walls, noise reduction, soundproofing material, soundproofing insulation, sound deadening material, sound absorbing material, sound control, acoustic insulation, diy soundproofing, soundproof room, sound dampening, cheap soundproofing, soundproof material, soundproof apartment, sound dampening material, soundabsorption, studio soundproofing, sound deadening insulation, sound dampening insulation, room soundproofing, best soundproofing material, best sounddeadening, cheap soundproofing material, sound barrier material , acoustic soundproofing, home soundproofing, soundproof wall insulation, best sounddeadening material, , , , , Sustainability, green living, green homes, natural resources, green house, healthy living, renewable resource,

sustainable design, environmental, greens, floor tile, go green, environment, eco friendly flooring options, environmentally friendly flooring, Healthy flooring, eco flooring, green flooring, eco friendly flooring, green flooring options, nontoxic flooring tile outlet, building materials, floor tiles, brown, cork flooring, dining room, dining room ideas, modern dining room, discount flooring, sustainable flooring, flooring supplies, flooring options, boat flooring, home insulation, sound insulation, insulation materials, soundproofing insulation, boat flooring, bathroom flooring, , cork flooring, insulation, soundproofing, sound insulation, sound proof insulation, sound proof, house insulation, soundproof insulation, basement insulation, thermal insulation, acoustic, Â