



REDUC Installation Guidelines



The following instructions are issued as an aid to the correct installation procedures. Individual site conditions may necessitate variances to these standard instructions and all such cases should be referred to Hodgson & Hodgson's Technical Department. If in any doubt prior to or during installation, call 01664 821810 for assistance.

1. Preparation and Planning

All REDUC products should be stored inside and under cover in a dry, well-ventilated area. Ensure they do not come into direct contact with water or are subjected to high levels of humidity as the boards may swell and warp. Protect boards, particularly at the corners from potential damage.

Acclimatise the boards in the area in which they are to be laid for 24 hours prior to installation.

Plan the laying of the total floor area to optimise the use of REDUC and avoid wastage.

Wear a suitable facemask to avoid the inhalation of dust when cutting REDUC.

2. Installation

Method 1 Overlaying onto Existing Timber Floors.

- Ensure the existing floor is dry, flat, structurally sound and free of creaks. Remove any protrusions e.g. nails, carpet tacks, mortar or plaster spills etc.
- Remove existing skirting boards and ensure the surface of the base of the perimeter walls are smooth, flat and free from dust or loose particles.
- If REDUC SoundSlab insulation is to be incorporated into the floor, remove existing flooring boards and friction fit the SoundSlab snugly between floor joists to rest on the top of the ceiling below. Ensure the entire ceiling area, including gaps between the end joists and the wall are covered. Re-lay the existing flooring boards before starting to fix the acoustic flooring. Alternatively, if the ceilings are being removed, SoundSlab can be fitted from below.
- Fix timber battens across any thresholds of stairs or doorways that will abut the acoustic flooring boards to ensure the edges of the boards are supported.
- Apply REDUC Isolation Tape around the bottom vertical face of all perimeter walls. The Isolation Tape should be 2mm wider than the thickness of the acoustic flooring board. If the surface of the wall is uneven, apply a 3mm to 5mm bead of REDUC FlexiSeal at the joint between the floor and the wall.
- Remove the tongue from the long and short edge of the first board to be laid.
- Starting at the opposite corner from the door opening, lay the first board felt side down to butt up against the REDUC Isolation Tape or FlexiSeal bead. Ensure the board does not come into direct contact with the perimeter wall itself.
- Remove the tongue from the long edge of subsequent boards on the first row. Apply REDUC Adhesive to the joints, using one litre for every 25m² floor area laid. Push the second board into the joint to form a tight fit with the first board and repeat along the length of the wall. Cut the last board to fit.
- Use any off-cut from the first row to start the second row, or cut a new board to stagger the joints on this and successive rows.
- Apply REDUC Adhesive to each tongue of subsequent boards as work proceeds and push the boards into position, working towards the doorway.
- Ensure all the boards fit tightly together to avoid gaps and sound leakage through flanking transmission. If there are any small, unavoidable gaps, fill them with REDUC FlexiSeal.
- For optimum acoustic performance, the acoustic flooring should not be continuous between rooms. Isolate and seal boards at perimeter

edges. At doorways allow a 5mm gap between the boards and apply a 10mm bead of REDUC FlexiSeal to the static board and butt seal together.

- REDUC acoustic flooring boards up to 17mm thick can be cut to fit around toilets, bath legs, pedestals, pipes and other obstructions. Ensure the boards are at least 1mm away and do not come into direct contact with the fittings. Fill any gaps with a bead of REDUC FlexiSeal. When laying REDUC over 17mm in thickness, fix the sanitary ware onto a wooden plinth of the same thickness as the acoustic flooring and cut to butt up against the plinth. Fill any gaps with REDUC FlexiSeal.

- When laying REDUC in kitchens, the entire floor area should be covered. The acoustic flooring should be cut to fit around cupboard legs allowing a 2mm to 3mm gap. Fill any gaps with REDUC FlexiSeal. This is especially important when the kitchen worktops are in granite or similar heavy material as the weight may damage or compress the acoustic flooring, thus creating an uneven finish.

- Allow the joint adhesive to cure before walking on the floor for up to 48 hours, depending on the temperature.

- Re-fix skirting boards over the top of the REDUC Isolation Tape, allowing a 2mm gap between the bottom of the skirting board and the top of the acoustic flooring boards.

Method 2 Laying Directly onto Timber Joists. REDUC Foundation and REDUC SoundFloor for joists at up to 400mm centres. REDUC Foundation Extra and REDUC SoundFloor Extra for joists at up to 600mm centres.

- Ensure the upper face of the joists are dry and flat. If the top of the joists are not completely level you can apply a strip of REDUC Heavy Duty Isolation Tape along their length to reduce the risk of boards creaking.
- Friction fit REDUC SoundSlab snugly between the floor joists to rest on the top of the ceiling below. Ensure the entire ceiling area, including gaps between the end joists and the wall are covered.
- Apply REDUC Isolation Tape around the bottom vertical face of all perimeter walls. The Isolation Tape should be 2mm wider than the thickness of the acoustic flooring board. If the surface of the wall is uneven, apply a 3mm to 5mm bead of REDUC FlexiSeal at the joint between the floor and the wall.
- Lay Flooring as per Method 1 above (step 5 onwards).
- Non load-bearing timber and metal stud partitions can be built directly off REDUC Foundation and Foundation Extra and can be mechanically fixed into 75% of the upper surface of the boards. The natural expansion and/or contraction of any floating floor may be

Continued Overleaf...

the cause of wall distortion together with a reduction in the acoustic performance. The suggested alternative would be to apply REDUC Heavy Duty Isolation Tape to the base of a timber floor plate with no mechanical fixings. The floor plate should run the full length up to the wall edges and be butted against Heavy Duty Isolation Tape. The floor plate can then be mechanically fixed to the vertical wall fixed plates and stud work, ideally with angle brackets and fixings up 75% of the floor plate depth. All plasterboard layers should be a minimum of 2mm above the acoustic floor surface.

Method 3 Overlaying Directly onto Concrete Floors. REDUC SoundFloor and SoundFloor Extra, REDUC Micro and Micro Extra, SoundFloor 15 & 18.

- Ensure the upper face of the concrete floor is dry and flat. Apply a suitable smoothing compound or levelling screed if necessary.
- Lay Flooring as per Method 1 overpage (step 4 onwards).

Method 4 Overlaying onto Battens on Concrete Floors. REDUC Foundation and REDUC SoundFloor for battens at up to 400mm spacings. REDUC Foundation Extra and REDUC SoundFloor Extra for battens at up to 600mm spacings.

- Ensure the upper face of the concrete floor is dry and flat. Apply a suitable smoothing compound or levelling screed if necessary.
- Fix timber battens around the perimeter walls and across any thresholds of stairs and doorways that will abut the acoustic flooring boards. This ensures the edges of the boards are fully supported.
- Fix timber battens at 400mm or 600mm centres across the floor as appropriate.
- Apply REDUC Isolation Tape above the perimeter battens around the bottom vertical face of all perimeter walls. The Isolation Tape should be 2mm wider than the thickness of the acoustic flooring board. If the surface of the wall is uneven, apply a 3mm to 5mm bead of REDUC FlexiSeal at the joint between the floor and the wall.
- Lay Flooring as per Method 1 overpage (steps 6-15).
- If access to ducts and services is required, cut an access trap by setting a power saw at 45 degrees and at a depth of 20mm. Replace the trap by laying a bead of REDUC FlexiSeal.
- Re-fix skirting boards above the top of the REDUC Isolation Tape, allowing a 2mm gap between the bottom of the skirting board and the top of the acoustic flooring boards.

Wet Room Floors

A selection of REDUC products are suitable for use in the construction of wet room floors. However, as this is a specialist application expert advice should be sought when detailing the floor.

Underfloor Heating

REDUC Foundation is suitable for use with water based or electric heating systems and will provide a firm and stable base, subject to the boards being conditioned before use to avoid shrinkage and warping. The heating system should be laid in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and on top of the REDUC flooring due to the highly insulative properties of the product and to avoid increased running costs and heat response times.

3. Floor Finishes

If the floor is to be used as a deck for smooth floor finishes, minor sanding of the joints may be necessary before applying the floor finish. Fully flexible materials to BS:3261:A should be used.

Where a good quality, smooth finish is required, it may be necessary to fix 6mm hardboard or plywood on top of the REDUC boards with contact adhesive applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

DO NOT use any form of mechanical fixings to secure the floor coverings e.g. nails, screws, staples, tacks etc. as they will create potential paths for flanking transmission.

When fitting carpets and underlay, secure gripper rods with adhesive rather than tacks.

When laying vinyl, PVC, rubber, cork, sisal type matting and other Amtico type floor coverings etc. it will probably be necessary to stabilise the floating floor to avoid "witness marks" by covering it with a moisture resistant proprietary board.

When using adhesives to fix the floor covering it should be laid in accordance with the FLOOR FINISH MANUFACTURER's instructions.

When laying laminate flooring, parquet tiles and other natural wood finishes it may be necessary to stabilise the floor to prevent movement. The floor finish should be laid over a resilient layer of polyurethane foam or similar to prevent squeaking.

Ceramic floor tiles should be laid on a flexible, stress relieving membrane and fixed with a flexible bedding compound and grout to neutralise any differential movement between the acoustic flooring and the tiles. Contact Schluter-Systems on: 01530 813396 or similar suppliers for further information.

When laying a natural stone finish e.g. marble, granite, limestone etc., seek professional advice. Ensure the floor structure is strong enough to withstand the additional weight and lay in accordance with the floor finish supplier's recommendations.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD MECHANICAL FIXINGS BE USED WHEN LAYING FLOOR FINISHES.

4. Maintaining Acoustic Integrity of REDUC

In order to maintain the acoustic integrity of REDUC, every care should be taken to avoid rigid connections between the "floating floor" and the adjacent structure of the building by following the guidelines below:

DO NOT nail or screw bookcases, shelving or fitted furniture etc. to the floor.

DO NOT build partition walls directly off the floor when creating an ensuite bathroom or undertaking similar building alterations. This may cause cracks to appear between the top of the wall and the ceiling as a result of the natural movement of the floor. The acoustic flooring should be cut away and the partition built off the substrate floor. Fix REDUC Heavy Duty Isolation Tape along the bottom of both sides of the partition wall and re-lay the acoustic flooring, butt jointing it to the Isolation Tape.

If installing additional sanitary ware, seek professional advice to ensure the acoustic flooring is capable of withstanding the additional weight of any point loading. Alternatively, cut away the acoustic flooring and install fittings on a solid plinth of equal thickness to the flooring.

If penetrating the floor with soil pipes or other plumbing features, electrical wiring etc., seek professional advice before commencing work to ensure the acoustic integrity is maintained when work is complete.

DO NOT install down-lighters in a ceiling directly below an acoustic floor as this could create a path for noise to "leak" through.

Like other timber flooring products, REDUC boards may warp if subjected to excessive water caused by flooding or continuous high levels of steam and humidity. Ensure kitchens, bathrooms and shower rooms are adequately ventilated.

If the acoustic flooring is subjected to water damage it should be replaced. **DO NOT** try to nail or screw the boards back into position as this will create a direct path for noise transmission through the floor and may result in the floor "squeaking".

If in any doubt contact Hodgson & Hodgson on Tel: 01664 821810

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REDUC AND SOUNDFLOOR FITTING INSTRUCTIONS

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