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TO KNOW ABOUT**

# **SOUND INSULATION TESTING**

# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A SOUND INSULATION TEST?

A sound insulation test is needed to comply with Part E 2003 to the Building Regulations. A certificate will need to be given to your Building Control Body.

## At what stage does sound insulation testing take place?

The test takes place at practical completion with the following in place

- There is access to both sides of the wall or floor being tested
- Rooms are clear of all building materials
- There is no work being undertaken near to the areas being tested
- Carpets or other coverings have NOT been laid in areas to be tested
- External noise is kept to a minimum (e.g. ground works)
- Site staff & all contractors are aware that no noise will be permitted during testing
- Windows are complete with locks in place and closeable
- Trickle vents are in place or temporarily blocked for testing
- All doors both internal & external are fitted and closeable
- Power sockets on party walls are in place if appropriate
- All walls surfaces in rooms to be tested are complete
- Floor and ceiling surface is complete
- Cornice and skirting boards are in place
- Power sockets are live or another 240V domestic power supply is available nearby
- Smoke or other alarms must not bleep during the test
- Access is available to both sides of the walls and floors for carrying out measurements
- Details of construction of party walls have been forwarded or are available on site

## What tests are needed for different types of dwelling?

### Where there is a party wall or floor:

- 1 A test of insulation against airborne sound between one pair of rooms (where possible to be suitable for use as living rooms) on opposite sides of the separating wall.
- 2 A test of insulation against airborne sound between another pair of rooms (where possible to be suitable for use as bedrooms) on opposite sides of the separating wall.
- 3 A test of insulation against airborne sound and a test against impact sound between one pair of rooms (where possible to be suitable for use as living rooms) on opposite sides of the separating floor.
- 4 A test of insulation against airborne sound and a test against impact sound between another pair of rooms (where possible to be suitable for use as bedrooms) on opposite sides of the separating floor.

### Tests 1 & 2

Building Control Bodies should stipulate at least one set of tests for every ten dwelling houses, flats or rooms for residential purposes in a group or sub-group.

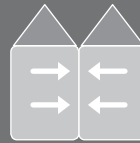
### Tests 3 & 4

Each block will require four sound tests.

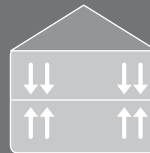
### Tests 1 & 2 + 3 & 4

Each block will require six sound tests assuming that the wall and floor types are the same throughout each block. If not each type may need testing.

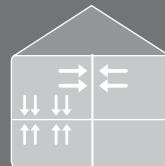
### 2 Houses



### 2 Flats



### 4 Flats



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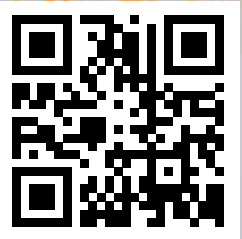
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