# THE EASY GUIDE TO TILING AND MEETING ACOUSTIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE NZ BUILDING CODE ON CONCRETE FLOORS

**REDUCE NOISE LEVELS BY 10–14DB!** 





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# **OVERVIEW**

Design Professionals and consumers want durable design driven, low maintenance floor finishes that create a continued flow, last the test of time and meet Code requirements.

Multilevel Buildings with different tenancies are required under the NZ Building Code G6.2 and G6.3.2 to have Acoustic properties of not less than IIC 55".

(This Standard states "The Impact Insulation Class of floors shall be no less than 55" or 50, which is the field test requirement (ie not a laboratory test).

- The Code requirement is not however the scale that Acoustic engineers use to measure sound reduction which is decibels (db) L n T,w. This Scale has the same pass rate of 55 but is a reverse scale so the lower the decibel noise transfer the better.
- 2. Acoustic noise reduction systems therefore look to reduce or improve an existing floor to 55 decibels (db) L n T,w or less in a total flooring systems test.
- 3. Below we show Examples of acoustic reduction systems on a bare concrete floor (without any additional reduction in decibels from other building elements like Insulation and roof lining). This example is based on a bare concrete floor at an estimated worst case 69 decibels which shows to achieve a pass rate you will need to use the last two systems. However if the bare concrete system is closer to 59 decibels all systems will take the floor into a pass position of 55 decibels or less.

# **CONCRETE FLOORS**

### To achieve this, there are 3 systems to easily improve tiled concrete floors so that tile and stone pass the minimum requirement as part of the installation system.

The three specialist tiling systems incorporate acoustic elements that will significantly improve the floor's quietness, and will exceed Code requirements over structural concrete substrates.

In addition tiled floors generate superior lifecycle costings, thermal mass calculations and basically ease of living.

Typical Impact Noise Test Results					
System	172mm concrete slab 100mm suspended ceiling 10mm plasterboard	Decibeles (dB) ĽnT,w	Noise Reduction		
	<b>Bare Floor</b> (worst case)	69dB	Changes in sound level 3dB=Clearly noticeable 10dB=Half as loud		
1	3mm Acoustibond	59dB	10dB		
2	6mm Acoustiflor, 3mm Monoflex	57dB	12dB		
3	6mm Acoustiflor, 3mm Acoustibond	55dB	14dB		





# Our Acoustibond and Acoustiflor systems are:

- Green friendly and made from Recycled Rubber crumb (Green Star Compliant)
- Part of a comprehensive warranted tiling system
- Trowel applied
- Cost effective
- Made and Backed by a highly reputable Company
- Designed to eliminate the "bounce back" reverberation common with loose laid flooring systems, i.e. no "drummy" sounds in your room!

# Most bare concrete floors have an IIC of between 59 and 69.

These variations are due to design and construction techniques, so we have different systems to cope with these variations. Your acoustic engineer can give you more details on your floors!





# **OUR SYSTEMS**

#### SYSTEM 1:

Acoustibond, a flexible 2-pack adhesive;

- Is trowel-applied, using a 12mm notched trowel. Tiles over 450x450mm are also back-buttered
- Gives an improvement Delta △Lw (I.e. Noise reduction of...) of 10dB, so will pass the Code requirements over most concrete floors (subject to on-site test of existing floor)



# SYSTEM 2:

Acoustiflor, a flexible, self-levelling compound:

- Gives an improvement Delta △Lw (I.e. Noise reduction of...) of 12dB once tiled with Monoflex
- Can be installed at any stage after the base plates are in
- Can be installed internally and externally
- When tiled with Monoflex, will pass the Code over most structural concrete floors
- Covers minor level change, usually eliminating the need for FLC's
- Can encapsulate underfloor heating, eliminating the need for an extra layer
- Is only 6mm thick, plus adhesive
- Can be installed at 200m<sup>2</sup>+ per day
- Acts as a permanent crack suppression system

As a guide, a 3dB reduction is clearly noticeable, and a 10dB reduction is half as loud

- The tiler simply tiles
- No added layers
- No added height
- Minimal added cost!

# SYSTEM 3:

Acoustiflor Plus, a flexible, self-levelling compound:

- Gives an improvement Delta △Lw (I.e. Noise reduction of...) of 14dB once tiled with Acoustibond
- Can be installed at any stage after the base plates are in
- Can be installed internally and externally
- When tiled with Acoustibond, will pass the Code over any structural concrete floor
- Covers minor level change, usually eliminating the need for FLC's
- Can encapsulate underfloor heating, eliminating the need for an extra layer

#### To meet the Code:

To ensure you conform to the "Airborne and Impact Code", firstly you need to design a suitable floor substrate as this will dictate the acoustic system/ adhesive system required.

#### 1. Superior Substrate

- 200mm Concrete slab,
- 300mm Suspended ceiling,
- 10mm plaster board

Use **System 1** - Tile with Acoustibond to conform to code (there is a minimal cost estimate of  $10/m^2$ )

### 2. Average Substrate

- 170mm Concrete slab,
- 100mm Suspended ceiling,
- 10mm plaster board

Use **System 2** - Tile with Monoflex over Acoustiflor (check with Acoustic Consultant as to specific rating of the structure. Acoustiflor at 3, 4.5 or 6mm thick may be required; approximate cost \$30 - \$50 /m<sup>2</sup>)

# **SELECTION GRAPH**

### 3. Less than desirable substrate

- (more design required).
- 150mm Concrete slab,
- 50mm Suspended ceiling,
- 10mm plaster board

Redesign or use **System 3** - Tile with Acoustibond over Acoustiflor at 6mm thick (there is cost to counteract the substrate of approximately \$65/m<sup>2</sup>)

#### WET AREAS

The results above are further improved by installation in wet areas, as the addition of Liquid Flash 2-pack or Hydrathane waterproofing membranes in the system increases performance.

SUBSTRATE STANDARD	SYSTEM		APPROXIMATE COST /M <sup>2</sup>
Superior	(1) Acoustib	ond	\$10.00/m <sup>2</sup>
Average	(2) Acoustifl	or (3-6mm)/Monoflex	\$30-50.00/m <sup>2</sup>
Less than	(3) Acoustifl	or (6mm)/Acoustibond	\$65/m <sup>2</sup>

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