



Why Interfloor Timbermate Excel has become Europe's leading acoustic underlay brand

by
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Timbermate Excel looks and feels superb when rolled out with uncompromising stability and 'stay put' qualities. Unlike its polyethylene and polystyrene-foil backed lookalike competitors, there's no wrestling match putting it down!

Timbermate Excel then provides a fantastic receptive surface to fit laminate onto, masking slight unevenness and minor surface blemishes found in many subfloors. It's easy to cut too, with either shears or knife.

While all of these benefits contribute to Timbermate Excel's popularity, there's one that makes the product stand out above all others... it is the noise reduction property that has elevated Timbermate Excel to its prominent market position.

Time and time again customers report discernible subdued footfall noise in laminate installations where Timbermate Excel has been used. Until now, however, there has been no reliable test data to substantiate these declarations.

While many products on the market claim to be acoustic underlays, their impact testing just does not compare - or measure up to - the tests used for Timbermate Excel. For example, most quote Impact Noise (ISO 140-8) delta Lw reduction figures of 18 dB or higher. However, this test does not measure how noisy a laminate can make the inside of a room, it only measures the amount of sound transferred between rooms and the measurements quoted are those of the underlay only and not the combination of both.

THE SONE TEST

In 2002 the Association of the European Producers of Laminate Flooring (EPLF) came together and agreed the needed a proper and meaningful noise test. They commissioned four leading universities and laboratories to come up with one that could be used to compare the 'in room' sound properties of laminates and acoustic underlays. They wanted a test that would show which materials produce the quietest room conditions. This took two years to accomplish and the SONE test was born.

In the SONE test (with and without acoustic underlay) a tapping machine is used to generate noise



THE NOISE REDUCTION SOLUTION

on the laminate surface which is measured by microphones. The noise measured is converted into a single value called a SONE, the lower the SONE the less noise in the room, the higher the more noise.

The SONE test is the only true and quantifiable way to compare acoustic underlays under laminates.

They also show 'in room' acoustics can worsen if inferior or lightweight underlays are used - putting a lightweight, air filled, cellular product under laminate creates an echo chamber - and more noise!

Interfloor continues to lead the way in underlay acoustic solutions with a wealth of experience developing products to give customers the very best for homes and offices.



Sone test results of various acoustic underlays
Tested under Unilin UniClic 700 Laminate at the Fraunhofer Institute
Holzforschung Germany to EPLF-Norm 021029-1

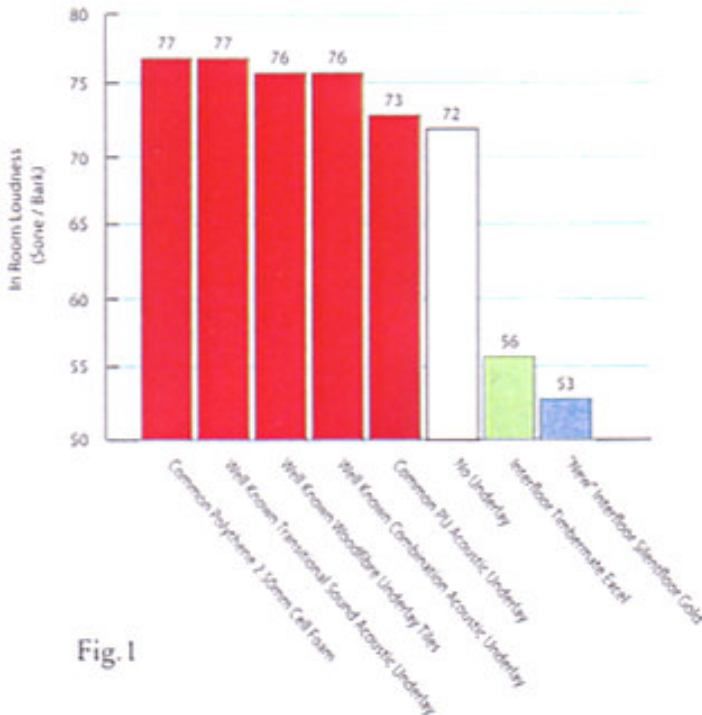


Fig. 1

The graph (Fig. 1) shows comparison between several laminate acoustic underlays widely sold in the UK all tested to the SONE standard. The tests were carried out using UniClic 700, one of the largest selling laminate brands in Europe.

The test results confirm that Timbermate Excel significantly reduces 'in room' noise when used under laminate flooring, with its heavy mass, stability and 'stay put' qualities absorbing the sound energy.

Timbermate Excel continues as Europe's leading acoustic laminate underlay with the new Interfloor Silentfloor Gold offering the ultimate solution.

For further information contact Interfloor on 01706 213131 or visit our web site at www.interfloor.com

