

atspaceltd.co.uk

ATSPACE

DELIVERING BEYOND COMPLIANCE

Version 1.2  
September 2020

# Sound Insulation Checklist



Call us today on 0800 917 8922  
to speak with an adviser or visit  
[atspaceltd.co.uk](https://atspaceltd.co.uk)

## Sound Insulation Checklist

---

### What is involved?

Sound Insulation Testing is carried out between a pair of vertically or horizontally adjacent spaces, separated by either a party wall OR party floor. The required testing procedure involves setting up a noise source on one side of the party element, and measuring the resultant noise level on the other side of the party element. These figures are then uploaded to our computer and run through our state-of-the-art software suite.

The resultant single number indicates the overall sound reduction capability of the party element being tested. These figures are then compared to the minimum levels given in Approved Document E of the Building Regulations. These are then classed with either a 'Pass' or a 'Fail'.

Where a party elements' calculated single figure value exceed these minimum requirements, no further action should be taken. Where the party elements' single figure value fall short of these minimum requirements, remedial action should be taken to improve the sound insulation. The element should then be re-tested until the minimum requirements under Building Regulations are achieved.

Due to operational procedure and in the interests of Health and Safety, we CANNOT allow anyone else in the room(s) that are being tested as our equipment emits a sound level in excess of 110 dB(A). Our sound source is remote controlled and can start without warning at any time. Without protection there is potential for permanent hearing damage when exposed to this level of noise.



---

Should you require any assistance with this checklist, or if you would like to hear more about our other building regulation compliance services, please contact us at

**[info@atspaceltd.co.uk](mailto:info@atspaceltd.co.uk)**  
**0800 917 8922**

When completed please send to:  
ATSPACE, Unit 3 & 4, The Cokenach Estate,  
Barkway, Royston, Hertfordshire, SG8 8DL



## Watch Now

How is a sound insulation test carried out?

## Requirements

- 1 Parking for a single vehicle should be made available as close to the testing rooms as possible.
- 2 All rooms must be unoccupied.
- 3 If the site is occupied, all room(s) undergoing sound insulation testing must be vacated by all personnel for the duration of the testing - including pets and children. (As our sound source is remote controlled it can start without warning at any time. Without protection there is a potential risk for permanent hearing damage when exposed to this level of noise).
- 4 Reasonably quiet conditions are required. No power tools are to be operated in the near vicinity during the test. No vehicles should be allowed to manoeuvre near the test rooms.
- 5 240v power sockets should be live and available in each test room.
- 6 All doors should be in place and be fully closable.
- 7 All windows should be fully fitted and closable. Trickle vents in place or temporarily blocked for the duration of the test.
- 8 All skirting boards should be fitted and in place.
- 9 Smoke alarm detectors must be deactivated for the duration of test.
- 10 Simultaneous access to both sides of the party element being tested is required. Where adjacent dwellings are under separate ownership suitable access arrangements should be in place prior to our visit.

### Floor Coverings

- Carpets and laminates should **not** be fitted as impact testing should take place on the bare floor.
- Carpets are required to be pulled up entirely or at least 50% to expose the bare floor for impact testing.
- If the carpets absolutely can't be pulled up, the test will be conducted directly onto the carpet and it will be noted on the report as a serious deviation of the test standard.
- Therefore, it is best to test without carpets or at least 50% pulled up.

>>

When Laminate is already laid

- Laminate flooring should **not** have any soft covering applied to protect the flooring for an impact test.
- If testing cannot be done directly on the laminate, a very thin, very hard piece of wood should be used as a covering to not absorb any of the impact hammer force. It will be noted on the report that the testing was conducted in this manner.

Reason for testing without floor coverings

You may question why you wouldn't test onto carpet and laminate as this will add a layer of sound proofing. The reason being is that you need to test the sound transmittance performance of the bare floor, thereby removing the variable of future tenants/owners removing the floor covering. So, when floor coverings are changed in the future the Sound Insulation Performance is still compliant with Part E of Building Regulations.

**11**

ALL rooms to be tested should be clear of debris and furniture.

**Non-compliance with the conditions outlined above will result in us not being able to carry out the Test(s), and an abortive visit charge will be issued.**