
TECHNICAL BULLETIN TB257

MINIMIZING NOISE IN HEATED FLOOR ASSEMBLIES

Product: REHAU Radiant Heating Panel and Plate Systems

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Radiant floor heating systems are quieter than many other heating systems, but no one can ever guarantee that a heated floor will be noise free. By following proper installation practices and observing all manufacturers' recommendations, noise during heating system operation can be minimized.

"Dry" applications including joist-space plates and above-the-floor panels, where the radiant heating system is part of a wood flooring assembly, can experience noise. Multiple manufacturers and contractors are involved in the various elements of a heated floor assembly – subfloor, heated floor system, underlayment and finished flooring materials. REHAU cannot be responsible for nor warrant a noise-free heated floor as there are many elements that comprise the flooring and many installation factors that may cause noise.

REHAU recommends that all installers review the latest edition of RPA *Radiant Flooring Guide* which provides recommendations for suitable floor coverings and sub-materials for use with radiant heating systems.

In addition, we recommend the following precautions during planning and installation of each project:

- reviewing installation instructions for each element of the heated floor (e.g., joists, subfloor, flooring) and resolving any conflicts with the manufacturers before installation
- inspecting the subfloor and requiring the general contractor to correct any deficiencies before installing the radiant heating system
- checking for noise as the radiant heating system is installed and addressing concerns immediately rather than waiting until the end
- coordinating with the finished flooring installer to ensure adherence to the heating and flooring installation instructions
- recommending a concrete overpour installation, which has the lowest potential for noise, to strongly noise-averse customers

REHAU *RAUPANEL™* and *RAUBOARD™* *Product Instructions* include specific recommendations regarding noise. Please note that a plywood subfloor is preferred underneath RAUPANEL; if OSB subflooring is used, then REHAU recommends applying a non-asphalt synthetic felt between the OSB subflooring and RAUPANEL.

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