

Hollow Spots: Causes And Cures

Hollow spots are those noisy, sometimes springy areas occasionally found in glued-down wood floors. They can be caused if:

1. An unlevelled subfloor allows the wood plank to bridge the dip in the subfloor and sound hollow or spring up and down when walked on.
2. A bowed board that did not adhere fully to the subfloor when installed.
3. Insufficient adhesive transfer where the board was not pressed down correctly or weighted to stay flat until the adhesive could adequately cure.
4. Not enough adhesive where the wrong size trowel was used and/or an scarce amount of adhesive was applied.
5. An expansion or contraction of the wood floor, causes the adhesive to break the bond with the subfloor.
6. A poorly prepared subfloor where the adhesive could not bond properly to the subfloor because of dirt, dust, paint, or other residue left on the subfloor.
7. A conventional subfloor (e.g. pier and beam) is poorly engineered or fastened, allowing the subfloor to flex under the traffic above.
8. Wood flooring is not laid perpendicular to joists.

Hollow spots are not uncommon to find on glue-down floors but can be irritating to hear and even become safety issues if they are so severe that they cause a tipping point. Fortunately, most can be repaired once the cause is determined.

When wood flooring is glued to a concrete subfloor, you can eliminate most hollow spots by using a floor repair kit such as the **STAUF IFK-100 Injector Floor Repair Kit**. The kit provides a drill bit, glue, and a syringe-type tool to inject glue under the board and into the hollow spot. Once filled with the glue and allowed to cure, the hollow spot is eliminated.

Causes #1-5 listed above will be cured using this repair kit. #6 will likely be repaired, also, because the void is being filled, but the residue may limit your success.

#7 requires that one carefully examines the subfloor structure. A qualified carpenter or structural engineer can usually determine how to 'shore up' or strengthen the affected area.

Visit www.staufusa.com for more information, or call Technical Services at (901) 820-0007.