

## Hollow Spots

When a void is present under the installed wood flooring, it sometimes can result in hollow sounding noises. Hollow noises are common with some installation methods, but do not always indicate that there necessarily is a problem with the floor. When no deflection or vertical movement is present, this may be considered normal provided that the installation followed proper installation procedures. Hollow sounds are not a direct concern with the performance of an installed wood floor as long as there is no movement accompanying the audible hollow sound.

The most common causes for hollow spots may include:

- A void in the flooring itself.
- Slight imperfections or voids in the subfloor.
- Slight undulations in the subfloor that cause the wood planks to bridge the dip, resulting in hollow sounds and/or deflection.
- Small area voids in the adhesive or voids within the properly applied adhesive.
- Improper adhesive application or adhesive failure.

One of the most-common causes for hollow sounds comes with what would be considered normal for a floating floor installation. When a void between the flooring and substrate is directly tied to vertical deflection within the installed flooring system, issues with flooring performance may become a factor and should be assessed on an individual basis. Movement within the flooring system could cause the flooring tongues to break or edges to chip, which may result in isolated performance issues.

The most common, and simple, repairs for performance-related hollow sounds include adhesive injections into the void area or individual board replacement. No remedy is necessary when vertical deflection is not present or with properly installed floated flooring.

