

Soundproofing to soil and vent pipes

(April 2023) (Third issue - supersedes June 2020)

Question

- 1 Is it necessary to soundproof sections of SVPs which do not pass through adjoining rooms or floor voids?
- 2 Do soil pipes running horizontally through a floor void above or below a habitable room require soundproofing?

Considerations

- NHBC Standards clause 8.1.6 states: 'Sound insulation should be provided to soil pipes passing through homes by: an encased boxing, using a minimum 15Kg/m² board material and wrapping the pipe with a minimum 25mm of unfaced mineral fibre (the insulation should continue through the thickness of each sound-insulating floor)'.
- 15Kg/m² board is equivalent to two layers of 12.5mm standard plasterboard.
- National building regulations require soundproofing of soil and vent pipes.

Answer

- 1 All sections of a SVP including those in bathrooms and those which do not pass through other rooms e.g. ground floor stub stacks and SVPs in bungalows, should be fully soundproofed in accordance with the details described and shown in NHBC Standards clause 8.1.6* (see diagram below).
- 2 All branch soil pipes** running through a floor void above or below a habitable room should be wrapped in sound insulating material, typically unfaced mineral fibre at least 25mm in thickness*.

The soil pipe should be adequately supported by the floor joists, avoiding any direct contact with either the floor decking or ceiling along its length.

* Unless the pipe has a third party assessment confirming that it meets with the building regulations and NHBC Standards without the need for separate sound insulation.

** The term soil pipe refers to a pipe serving a WC.

