

Cavity Party Wall. Airbourne Sound Transmission. Good Practice Guidance

A party wall cavity clear of mortar debris is of paramount importance in reducing Airborne sound transmission to a minimum.

Mortar debris dropping to the base of the cavity create a bridge causing the sound to transmit. Recent sound tests we have conducted on dwellings constructed by two different leading house builders on walls of the same construction yielded the following results.

Builder 1

Ground floor Living room to Living Room	Dntw + Ctr	46dB
First floor Bedroom to Bedroom	Dntw + Ctr	53dB

The ground floor here just passes the Building Regulations, but would fail a Robust Detail requirement.

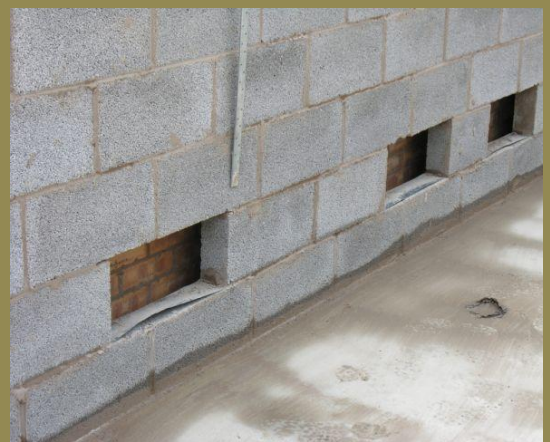
Builder 2

Ground floor Living room to Living Room	Dntw + Ctr	53dB
First floor Bedroom to Bedroom	Dntw + Ctr	58Db

Builder 2 adopts a method of omitting blocks in the second course above ground floor level permitting entry into the cavity enabling debris to be removed (see illustration).

In addition, once the first floor is in place wood is pushed downwards into the cavity. Wall ties are then "banged " with the wood thus removing any mortar which has become adhered.

This is a simple and effective way of maintaining clean cavities, the results of which speak for themselves.



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