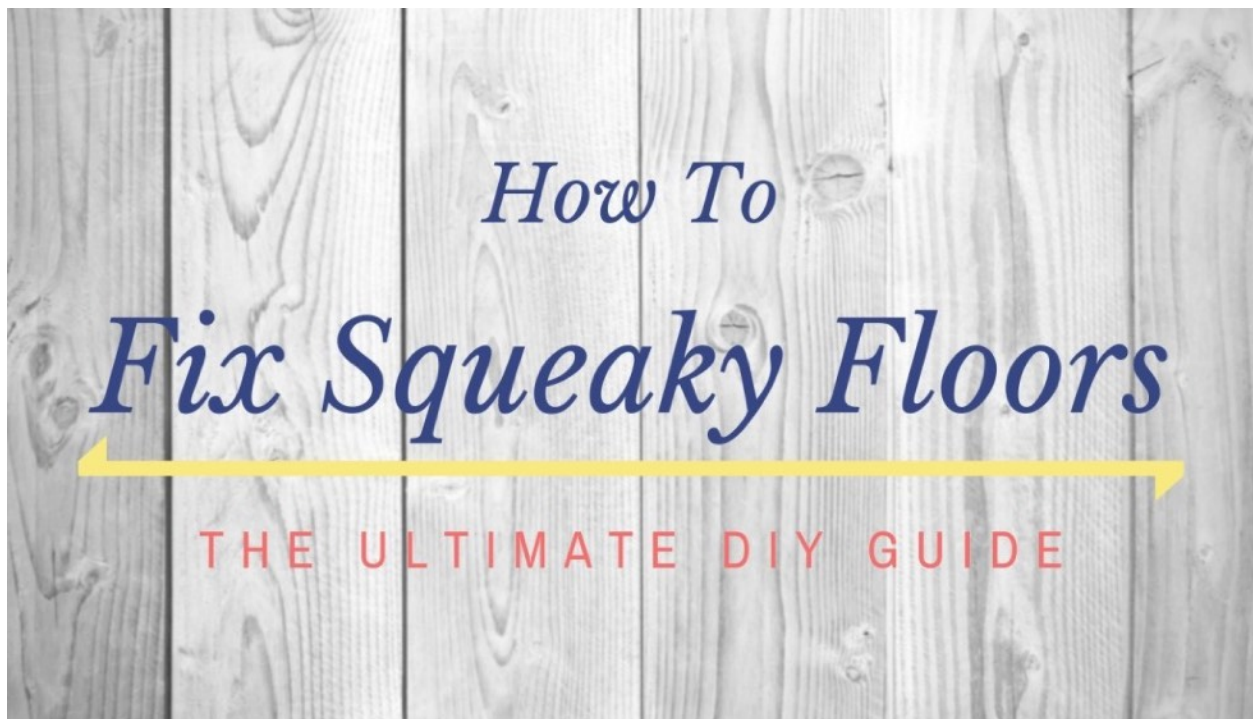


# How to Fix Squeaky Floors: The Ultimate DIY Guide

By Caleb Unruh @ FloorFixes.com



Have you ever tried to walk quietly through your house only to dread every step because of the squeaks, creaks, and other noises your floors make?

Do you have a certain spot in your hallway or living room that you always avoid because of how LOUD it is when you step there?

A home is supposed to be a place to relax and not be walking around “on eggshells” worrying about how to fix squeaky floors.

I’m a parent of 5 young children, and in our house we had a wood floor hallway that always made loud noises whenever we walked on certain boards. In fact, I had those boards memorized and did this weird hopscotch dance down the hallway late at night trying not to wake my kids up!

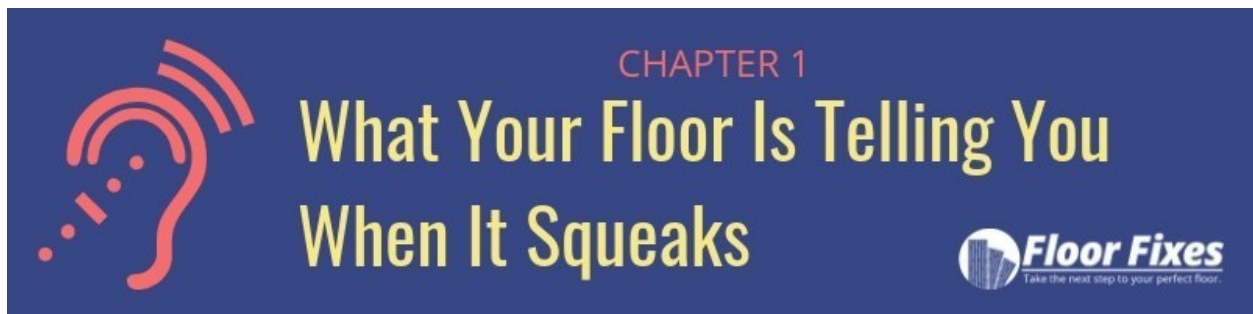
If you are tiptoeing around your house trying to avoid the dreaded creaks and squeaks of a noisy floor, you need to know that you don’t have to put up with it any longer. Learning how to fix squeaky floors is a doable DIY project for just about anyone in any home.

**Keep reading for the best ways to fix squeaky floors – and even some pretty crazy solutions that just might do the trick for you.**

In this Ultimate DIY Guide for Fixing Squeaky Floors, we’ll discuss:

- What your floor is telling you when it squeaks
- How to find the source of your noisy floors
- How to fix squeaky floors from above
- How to fix squeaky floors from below
- How to fix a squeaky floor under carpet

- Alternative therapies for squeaky floors (you might think some of these tips are a little crazy, but they work!)
- Tools to help fix squeaky floors <- These products might help solve your squeak problem
- **BONUS Subfloor Guide**– Thinking of replacing your floors? Follow these subfloor prep steps to make sure your new floors won't squeak.
- **FREE eBook:** Keep your wood floors in great condition all year long by reading my free ebook: The Four Season Guide to Wood Flooring



## What your floor is telling you when it squeaks

You've heard the saying: "If these walls could talk..." Well, the same goes for your floors – except they may actually be telling you something right now if you are hearing squeaks or other noises when you walk on them. Here are a few things [your floor may be saying](#), and what you need to do about it:

## Movement causes squeaky floors

It's no coincidence that your floor only squeaks when you walk on it. A squeak, creak, or other noise is a symptom of movement somewhere in your floor.

- It could be two floorboards rubbing against each other.
- It could be your subfloor is not flat and is moving up and down when you walk on it.
- It could be that your joists underneath your floor are not stable.
- It could be the metal fasteners (staples or nails) in your floorboards or subfloor are loose and are moving up and down.

Finding out where the movement is happening is important to silencing those squeaks. We'll talk about that more in Chapter 2: How to find the source of your noisy floors.

## Dry air causes squeaky floors

Wood floors are a natural product and they do best when they are kept from drying out too much or getting too wet. Just like a sponge, wood floors will shrink when they get dry. When floorboards shrink they may start to show gaps between the boards and the edges of the boards may start to curl upwards (this is called “[dry cupping](#)”).

This creates an uneven surface, which can cause movement (squeaks). Or the dry air may even cause the boards to start to pull loose from their fasteners, which would cause more squeaking.

Wood flooring needs to be kept in a consistent environment **between 30 and 50% relative humidity**. For many homes, this is hard to do during the dry winters or humid summers.

You should consider getting a whole-home humidifier installed to keep your home's relative humidity consistent – this will help your floors stay stable all year long and reduce the chances of squeaks. It will also keep you and your family comfortable, and it is a fairly inexpensive upgrade to most HVAC units.

Are you wondering if the air in your home may be too dry? A **\$10 hygrometer** is all you need to keep track of your home's relative humidity.

## **Squeaky floors may be a sign of a serious issue**

While not likely, your squeaky floors may be telling you that something more serious is going on in your home. It's worth getting a professional to look at your home if you suspect one of these issues is occurring:

- **You may have an uneven foundation:** If squeaks in your floors start suddenly, or you notice cracks in your drywall you may be having foundation issues.
- **You may have structural issues in your flooring:** If you can visibly see boards that are moving, or coming apart you may have a serious issue that needs to be looked at by a flooring professional. Board replacements, or a complete flooring replacement may be necessary to solve the problem.
- **You may have structural issues in your subflooring:** Termites, wood rot, or poor construction methods may be affecting the joists and other support structures of your subflooring.

Now that you understand what your squeaky floor may be telling you, it's time to find the source of the squeak.



## **How to find the source of your noisy floors**

If you have a squeaky floor, it may seem like the ENTIRE floor makes noise when you walk on it.

But, pay close attention and you will probably find specific areas – or even specific boards if you have a wood floor – are the primary culprits.

If you have a lot of these areas, you should focus on the areas that get the most foot traffic first. This will make sure you get the most out of your efforts to silence your floors.

## **Finding boards that are rubbing against each other**

Once you are in the area of the squeak, you'll need to get on your hands and knees and start pressing on various boards until you can detect movement. It may help to have a flash light beam shining across the floor to detect boards that are moving up and down.

Mark the boards that are moving with painters tape. Read Chapter 3: “How to fix squeaky floors from above” to solve board movement squeaks, and don't forget to read Chapter 6 for some weird ideas that just might work!

## **Working from below to find the source of the squeak**

If you have access to a basement or crawlspace beneath your floors, you'll also be able to see if any part of your subfloor may be the source of your squeak.

Ask someone to walk on the squeaky areas of your floor while you head to the basement (grab a flash light if lighting is poor).

Look for any areas that are moving while the person above is causing the squeak. It does not take very much movement to cause squeaks, so look closely for any movement in the following places:

- Look for any movement of the subfloor on top of the joists.
- Look for any movement of the joists themselves.
- Look for any loose nails or staples that may be moving.
- Pay attention to the seams of your subflooring, this is often where the most movement is happening!

Mark the areas you suspect are causing the noise with tape, and move on to “Chapter 4: How to fix squeaky floors from below.”





## How to fix squeaky floors from above

If you don't have access to a basement or crawlspace below the floor that is squeaking, your only choice will be to work from above to eliminate the movement of boards that are causing the squeaks.

Once you've located the source of the squeak, you need to use finish nails or special breakaway screws to tighten the squeaky area of flooring to the subfloor or joists.

This will eliminate the movement that is happening when you walk over this area of flooring. No movement means no squeaks!

### Top nailing a floor to stop squeaks

**What you'll need:** Hammer, 2" finish nails, nail set, tape measure, wood putty or filler.

**Step 1:** Find the joists underneath your floor by using a stud finder, or by gently tapping on your floor with a hammer.

Listen for the dull thud when you are tapping over the joists and mark it with tape.

You'll want to mark multiple joists that surround the squeaky area as it may be several loose spots that are causing your squeaks.

**Pro Tip:** Normally, joists run perpendicular to the direction of your floorboards. If you have a floor vent, a joist will always be on one side of the vent. Once you've found it, you can measure 16" to find the next one (joists are usually set on 16" centers).

**Step 2:** Using a 2" long finish nail, drive it with a hammer into the flooring directly over a joist.

Be careful to avoid hitting the floor with your hammer, and stop when the nail head is just above the surface of the floor.

Using a nail set, drive the nail head below the surface of the flooring approximately 1/8".

**Step 3:** Fill the small hole with wood putty or filler to match the color of your flooring.

Repeat steps 1-3 across several joists in the area of your squeak. Nails should be spaced 4-6" apart until the area is secured and you no longer see movement or hear a squeak.

If you have secured your flooring to the joists, but still detect movement or squeaks in between your joists, you

probably still have hollow areas between your flooring and subflooring. You'll need to use special breakaway screws to tighten up these areas and solve your squeaky floors.

## Using breakaway screws to silence squeaky floors

Using screws to tighten your floor to your subfloor is usually more effective than using top nails. Screws won't come loose over time, unlike nails which can eventually come loose and potentially cause more squeaking.



[Squeeeeek No More® For Wood Floors Kit](#)

In order to hide the screws in your floor, you'll need to order [special breakaway screws](#). A company named O'Berry Enterprises makes a special kit called "Squeeeeek No More"® that includes breakaway screws and a plastic fixture to set them at the right depth.

You can read more about the “Squeeeeeek No More”<sup>®</sup> kit in Chapter 7.

To use the special breakaway screws to silence your wood floor squeaks, follow these four steps for 3/4” hardwood floors:

**What you’ll need:** “Squeeeeeek No More”<sup>®</sup> for Wood Floors kit, drill, a 1/8” drill bit, putty or wood filler matched to your wood floors.



What you’ll need to fix squeaky floors from above with breakaway screws.

**Step 1:** Pre-drill a 2-1/4” deep hole in your wood floor with a 1/8” drill bit. Be sure to drill in the middle of a flooring board, and not too close to the end to avoid splitting it.

**Step 2:** Using the plastic fixture included in the kit, drive a special breakaway screw through the shorter of the two openings. Once the head of the screw hits the top of the plastic fixture, the force of the drill will cause the top of the screw to break away.

**Step 3:** The screw will now be set 1/5” below the top of the wood. You can use putty or wood filler matched to your floor to cover over the small hole.

Repeat steps 1-3 across the area that is squeaking, spacing your screws 4-6” apart.

**Shortcut:** Do you have a board or two that are rubbing together causing your squeaks? Check out Chapter 6 for a couple 2 minute tricks with products you probably already have at home that just may fix your squeaks.



## How to fix squeaky floors from below

Do you have access to your floors from an unfinished basement or crawlspace?

If so, you have a lot more options available to you to help stop squeaky floors.

First, read Chapter 2 to find the source of noise in your squeaky floor from below. Once you've narrowed down the source of the noise, you can try one or more of the following fixes:

### Use shims to stop movement and squeaks in your flooring



Inexpensive wood shims can help silence squeaky floors.

Wooden shims start out at about 1/4” thick, and taper down to almost nothing.

Try inserting several of these shims into the space between your subfloor and the top of your joists.

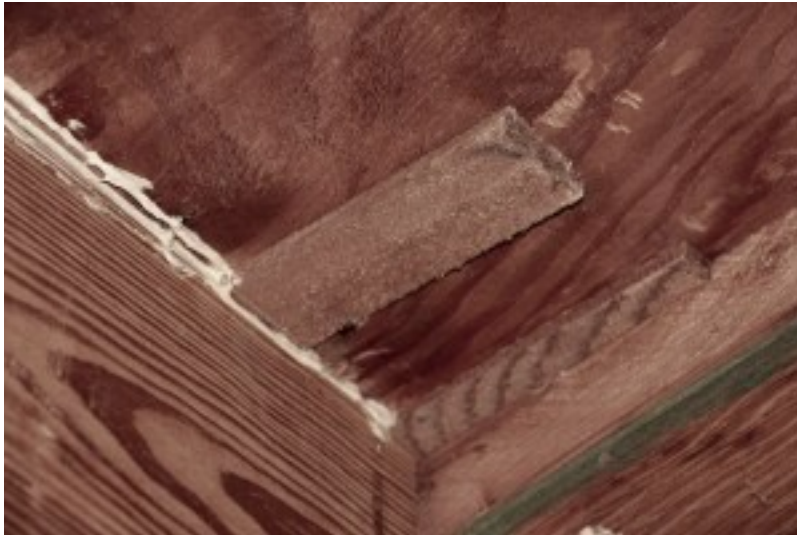
**Remember:** movement is usually what causes squeaks. If you have space, even a very small gap, between your subfloor and joists it is likely this is part of the problem. Shims will help fill that space and eliminate the movement and the squeak!

Be careful not to insert the shims too far into the joist so you don't raise the subfloor and end up creating a squeak somewhere else in your floor.

## **Use construction adhesive to fill in the gaps that cause squeaks**

If you have a lot of gaps between your subfloor and joists, you may want to consider using construction adhesive to fill in that space.

Just use a caulk gun to run a bead of glue along the top of the joist where there is a gap between it and the subfloor. The adhesive will fill in the space and stop the movement and squeaks that happen when people walk on your floor.



Shims and construction adhesive can be a great way to solve squeaky floors.

This method can also be used with shims to hold them in place.

## **Strengthen joists to silence squeaks**

If you notice a particular joist that is warped or deformed and causing a gap between it and the subfloor, you can strengthen that joist by screwing a block of wood that is at least the length of the gap to the joist itself.

Make sure that the block is flush with the subfloor before screwing it into the joist so that it supports your floor and eliminates the gaps and movements that are causing your squeaks.

Use construction adhesive and screws to fix this board to the joists that are warped or deformed.



## **Reinforce joists to stop movement that causes squeaks**

If certain joists are moving when people walk on your floors, you can reinforce them so that the load is more evenly spread across other joists in your basement. This will help reduce the movement that is likely causing your floor to squeak.

Measure several 2" x 8" boards that are the width of the space between your joists.

Use screws to fix these boards in between the joists in your basement.

You'll want to place one at the mid point of your joist, and perhaps additional ones spaced 18" to 24" from the center point until the movement is eliminated and the joists are stabilized.

It's also a good idea to use construction adhesive along the top edge of the board where it will be in contact with the subfloor. This will add further support to your floor.

## **Use screws from below to stop squeaky floors**



Screws are great fasteners because they use their threads to pull two boards together tight, unlike nails which only rely on friction and can come loose over time.

Short screws can be driven into your subfloor and flooring from your basement to pull the two layers tight together. This will stop movement between these two layers of your flooring and quiet the squeaking.

Be sure the screws you are using are not too long to come through the top of your flooring! Usually subfloors are  $\frac{5}{8}$ " or  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", and solid wood flooring is  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

1" screws should be ideal for most subfloor and flooring combinations to pull them together. But try it first in an inconspicuous area so that you can be sure your screws are not too long.

You may need to drive several of these screws into the area that the squeaking is occurring, spacing them 4-6" apart.

**Try using the Squeak-Ender® to quiet your squeaky floor**



The [Squeak-Ender](#) can help fix squeaky floors from below.

The [Squeak-Ender®](#) is a product designed to pull your subflooring tight against the joist.

This keeps your floor from moving up and down when people walk on it, thus silencing your squeaky floor.

The [Squeak-Ender®](#) is particularly effective when you suspect that the source of your squeaks are due to the nails in your flooring squeaking because there is space between your joist and subflooring.

Read more about the [Squeak-Ender®](#) in Chapter 7.

Once you have narrowed down the joist that has space above it, follow these four steps to install the Squeak-Ende<sup>®</sup>

**What you'll need:** Squeak-Ende<sup>®</sup> device, and included hardware. A Phillips head screw driver or drill bit and powered drill, adjustable wrench.



The Squeak-Ende kit includes the hardware you'll need to install it and fix your squeaky floors.

**Step 1:** Insert the hanger bolt into the anchor plate, and place the anchor plate flush against the subfloor and touching the nearest joist to the area that is squeaking.

**Step 2:** Use a drill or Phillips head screw driver and the included screws to screw the anchor plate to the subfloor.

**Step 3:** Place the joist bracket onto the hanger bolt and over the joist.

**Step 4:** Put the washer onto the hanger bolt and then hand tighten the hex nut with an adjustable wrench until the squeaking stops. Be careful not to over tighten the hex nut or else your joist may warp or the hanger bolt may break.



This is what the Squeak-Enders looks like once installed.

The Squeak-Ender® is recommended for 2”x10” joists, but can also be adapted with a longer hanger bolt to work with 2”x12” joists. It will work with any thickness of subfloor, and the screws are designed to not push through the top of your flooring.

Each Squeak-Ender® device will pull tight an approximately 4 square foot area of subflooring. Consider using 1-4 of these devices depending on how large of an area you are working on.



## **How to fix a squeaky floor under carpet**

If your carpeted floors are squeaking, then it is most likely a problem with your subfloor and joists.

First, try the methods above in Chapter 4: “How to fix squeaky floors from below” if you have access to your basement or crawlspace.

If not, you'll want to use special breakaway screws to tighten your subfloor to your joists and eliminate the movement that is causing the squeaks.

O'Berry Enterprises makes a [“Squeeeeeek No More”® kit for carpeted floors](#) that includes:

- Special breakaway screws.
- An alignment and depth control fixture to install the screws.
- A custom driver bit to help you drill the screw at the right depth.
- Two “Joist Finding Screws” to help you locate where your joists are.



The [Squeeeeeek No More® kit](#) for carpeted floors.

Unlike with the breakaway screws for hardwood floors, it is very important that you drill the screws into joists when you are working on a carpeted floor. If not, there is

nothing to cause the screws to breakaway and you'll be left with an unsightly screw head visible in your carpet.

**What you'll need:** In each “Squeeeeeek No More”® kit, there are instructions included to show you how to use the included “Joist Finding Screws”, a drill, and a tape measure to locate your joists.

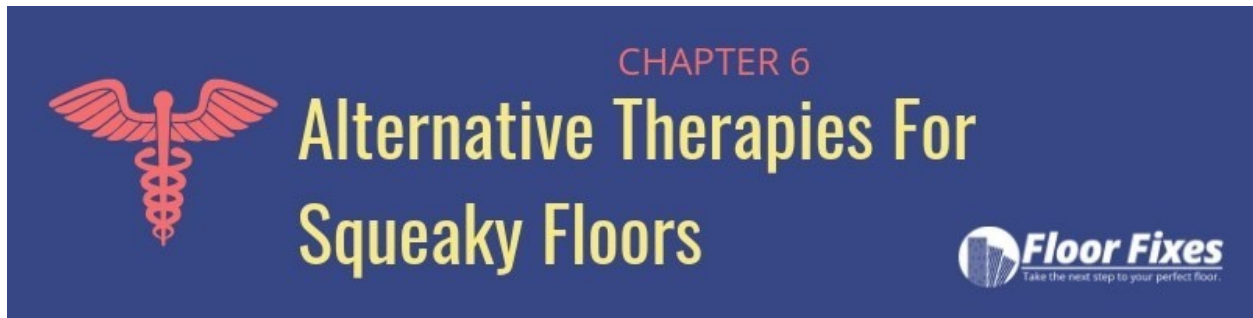
**Step 1:** Be sure to follow these instructions and mark the locations of your joists in the area of the squeak with tape.

**Step 2:** Once you've located your joists, you will then use the breakaway screws, the alignment and depth control fixture, and the custom driver bit to install the screws at the right depth.

**Step 3:** Once the screws are in as far as they should go, you'll use a special notch on the alignment and depth control fixture to grab the screw. Rocking it back and forth will snap the breakaway screw at the weak spot leaving it just below the carpet.

Repeat these steps in the area of the squeak, always screwing into your joists, until the squeak stops.





## **Alternative therapies for squeaky floors**

Let's face it. Sometimes it's worth it to try a quick fix before ordering a bunch of supplies or going to the hardware store.

I get it. You just want the squeaks to stop!

That's why I've included a couple easy (and maybe a little weird) techniques that you can try using products you probably already have.

Each of these "tricks" will take about two minutes.

But, before you keep reading. Don't get mad at me if they don't work, or stop working after a couple months.

These are the shortcuts, not the permanent fixes!

Ready to try something different?

Ok, then. Keep reading!

## **Baby powder may help fix your squeaky wood floors**



Baby powder can help fix squeaky floors in some cases.

That's right. Baby powder. Or talc, if you prefer. Or powdered graphite if you just happen to have it laying around.

The principle here is this: if your squeaks are being caused by two or more boards rubbing together whenever someone walks on them, you can try using a powder to stop the friction which is causing the squeak.

**A word of caution:** if you have dark wire brushed or textured wood floors, this quick fix may not be the best. The powder may work it's way into the grooves of your

textured floor and be really hard to get out. You can try using masking tape to tape off the area around the squeak if you still want to try it.

**Another warning:** Baby powder, talc, and graphite are slippery! Clean this stuff up as soon as you are done to avoid a slip hazard.

All that said, this is a really easy quick fix to try.

Simply work the baby powder into the seams between the boards that are rubbing together. Use your foot and body weight to move the boards up and down while working the powder into the seams. You should notice less of a squeak right away if this is working.

## **Use WD-40 to stop your squeaky wood floors**



WD-40 can help quiet boards that are squeaking.

WD-40 is the ultimate squeak stopper for everything else around your house: doors, drawers, and why not floors?

WD-40 works on the same principle as the baby powder fix: it lubricates the boards that are rubbing together and stops the noise.

**Here is what to be careful of:** WD-40 is flammable! Be careful to avoid an open flame while you're working with it. It's also very slippery. Clean up any excess as soon as you are finished to avoid a slip hazard.

Finally, anytime you are putting an oil substance on your floor (whether it's splattered cooking oil or anything else), you may have trouble later on if you would like to refinish your floors.

Still ready to give WD-40 a try?

Tape off the area that you are working on, and spray the WD-40 along the seam of the boards that are rubbing together.

Use a terry cloth or rag to work the lubricant into the seam of the boards while pressing on them with your foot and body weight. You should notice a quieter floor right away if this quick fix is working.

After you are finished, wipe up any excess using mineral spirits. The smell will dissipate over time.



## **Tools to help fix squeaky floors**

You should not need to break the bank to fix your squeaky floors, and in many cases the tools you have in your garage will be enough to give you peace and quiet – literally!

There are a few specialty tools available that are specifically designed to help eliminate movement and squeaks in your floor.

Some tools may be better than others depending on the source of your squeak, and what access you have (if any) to the bottom of your floors.

Read Chapter 2 to learn how to find the source of your squeak before buying these tools so you will know the best one to get.

## Squeeeeeek No More® for Wood Floors



Squeeeeeek No More® for Wood Floors is [available on Amazon](#).



This kit from O’Berry Enterprises includes special breakaway screws and a plastic fixture to set the screw at the right depth and cause it to breakaway just beneath the surface of the floor.

Screws often work better than nails in holding your flooring and subflooring together because the threads of the screws won’t come loose like nails can.

Because these screws “breakaway” just beneath the surface of your floor, you won’t have ugly screw heads in your flooring.

All that will be left is a small hole that can easily be filled with putty to match your existing flooring.

The Squeeeeek No More® for Wood Floors kit includes:

- 50 specially scored breakaway screws
- A driver bit with collar
- A plastic fixture to set the screws at the right depth

All you’ll need in addition to this kit is a drill and some putty or filler to hide your screws once they are installed.

The [Squeeeeek No More® for Wood Floors kit](#) is available from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

## **Squeeeeek No More® for Carpeted Floors**



This kit includes the special screws and adapters you need to fix squeaky floors over carpeted floors.

Similar to the Squeeeeeek No More® for Wood Floors kit, this kit for carpeted floors includes everything the wood floor kit includes, plus an alignment and depth control fixture for carpeted floors and a couple “joist finder” screws.

Carpet itself is never the source of a squeak – it’s carpet after all!

Squeaks in carpeted floors are always related to the subflooring and/or the joists supporting the subflooring.



For this reason, it's important that the breakaway screws are only drilled into the joists beneath your carpet and subflooring.

The Squeeeeeek No More® for Carpeted Floors includes two special “joist finding” screws that will help you identify precisely where your joists are. Instructions are included with the kit to help you use them.

Don't forget to read Chapter 5 for some other shortcuts to finding where your joists are.

**Pro Tip:** If you have both wood floors and carpeted floors that are squeaking, the latest version of the Squeeeeeek No More® kit includes depth and alignment fixtures for both carpeted floors and wood floors.

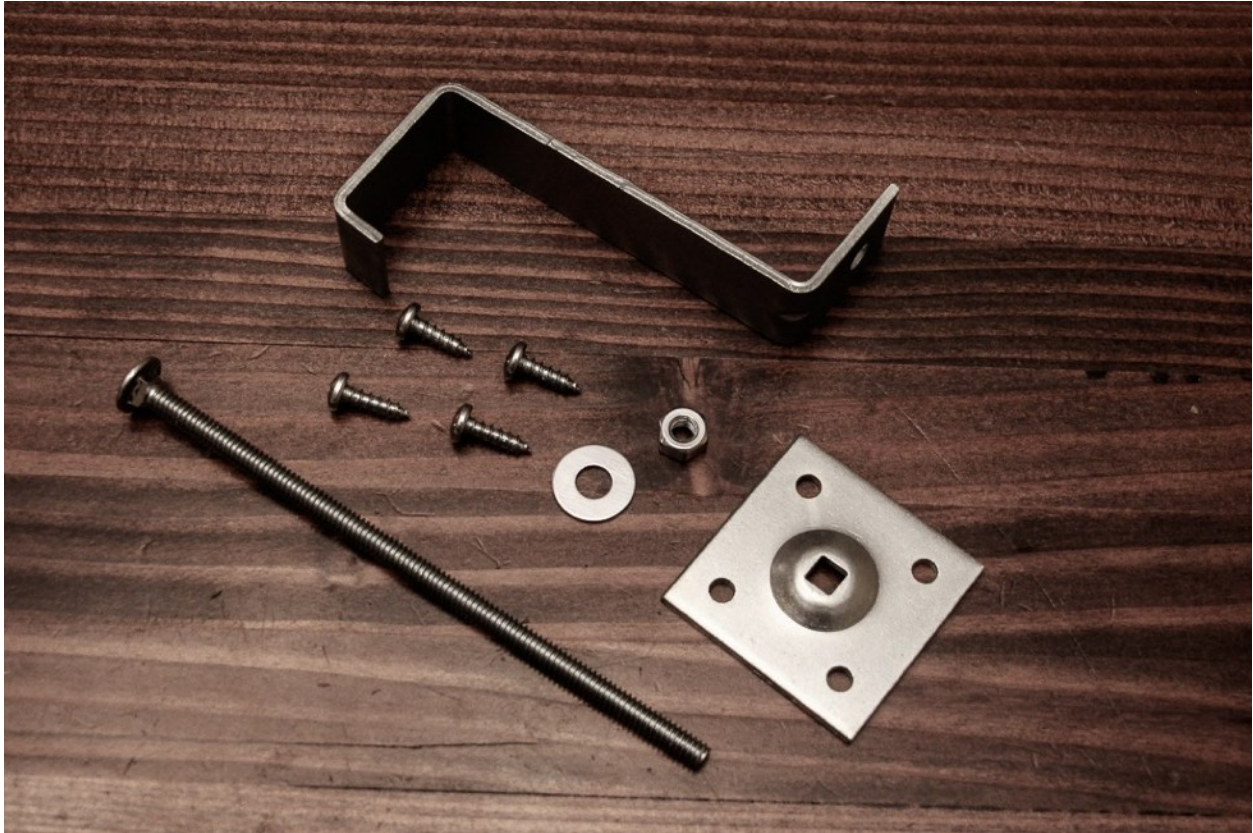
The [Squeeeeeek No More® for Carpeted Floors kit](#) is available from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

## **Squeak-Ender® for Subfloors**

If you have access to your basement or crawlspace, The Squeak-Ender® may be the tool you need.

The Squeak-Ender® works by pulling the subfloor and joists tight together to eliminate movement, which will help get rid of squeaks. This tool works for any flooring

type: carpet, wood, or vinyl with joists up to 2" x 10" (it can be modified to work with 2" x 12" joists).



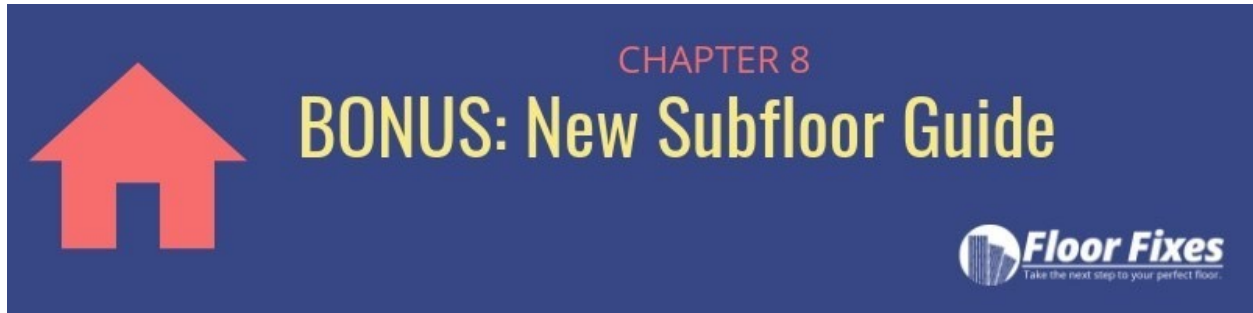
The Squeak-Ender kit allows you to fix squeaky floors from below the floor.

The Squeak-Ender® kit includes:

- One 1/4-20 x 6" carriage bolt
- One 2 square anchor plate
- One 4" joist bracket
- One 1/4" washer
- One 1/4-20 hex-nut
- Four #10 x 5/8" wood screws

All you'll need to have in addition to this kit is: a Phillips head screw driver, and an adjustable wrench.

The [Squeak-Ender®](https://www.amazon.com/Squeak-Ender) is available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or from [www.squeakender.com](https://www.squeakender.com).



## **BONUS: Follow these subfloor prep steps to make sure your new floors won't squeak.**

Are you considering installing brand new floors in your home?

Too many times people will replace an old squeaky floor thinking that the problem will automatically go away. But more than likely, it won't.

Imagine going through the hassle and money of installing a brand new floor only to have it start squeaking right away.

The reason is because most squeaks have just as much, if not more, to do with your subflooring than your floor covering.

Now is the time to make sure you or your contractor don't make the mistake of not preparing your subfloor before installing a brand new floor.

**Simply put, subfloors need to be clean, dry, sound and flat before installing any new flooring on top.** This goes for wood, laminate, luxury vinyl plank, tile and even carpet.

## **Subfloors should be CLEAN**

Remember that even the slightest movement of boards can end up causing a squeak in your floors.

Dirt, debris, nails, etc. can all cause problems if they aren't cleaned up before installing new flooring.

Dried sheetrock mud, or glue can also be a big problem. If you install your floor on top of this stuff, it will break down over time leaving an air gap between your subfloor and flooring.

An air gap will lead to movement and, as we know, movement causes squeaks!

## **Subfloors should be DRY**

Many people will pay attention to the moisture content of their wood flooring before they install it.  
But that's not enough!

The National Wood Flooring Association also recommends that moisture content of wood flooring be **within 2% of the moisture content of sub flooring** for wide plank floors before installation.

If the flooring and sub flooring aren't within 2% moisture content, problems can develop right after installation that aren't covered by any warranty.

If you are installing your new wood flooring yourself, be sure to have a good quality moisture meter that can test your flooring and sub flooring before installation.

If you are having a professional install your flooring, be sure to insist that they document the moisture content of your flooring and sub flooring before installation.

## **Subfloors should be SOUND**

We've been talking about bad sounds that floors make, but now let's pay attention to another definition of "sound": *in good condition, not damaged.*

Your subfloor needs to be in tip top shape if you want your nice wood floor, tile, LVT or carpet to perform well.

If you have a concrete subfloor, it's fairly easy to tell if it's in good condition, with no pieces coming loose or chipping away.

For a wooden subfloor, the best thing you can do is to walk on every area of your subfloor after you've cleaned it.

**Does your subfloor squeak?** Well, that won't go away when you put new flooring on top of it. Better to fix it now!

**Does your subfloor have loose spots, or move up and down in certain areas?** This will end up causing movement and other problems in your flooring sooner or later.

**Are some of your subfloor panels falling apart or rotten?** It's way easier to fix these now to make sure they don't cause problems later.

You can solve these problems now by screwing down areas of your subfloor that need it, strengthening your joists underneath your subfloor, or replacing subfloor panels that are in bad condition.

It's always better and cheaper to fix a subfloor before you install beautiful new flooring on top of it.

**Subfloors should be FLAT**

An uneven subfloor is often times the most likely culprit in floors that squeak.

Pay very close attention to the flatness of your subfloor, and be sure that it meets the requirements of the new flooring you are installing (and the adhesive you're using to install it with, if you are gluing it down).

Don't just eyeball it, use a laser measure, a straight-line, or a long straight edge (such as a long level) to check the flatness of your sub flooring.

If there are dips or high spots in your subfloor, installing new flooring on top will leave an air gap between the subfloor and the flooring. Sooner or later, this will result in squeaking or worse.

If you have a concrete subfloor that isn't flat, you can use floor leveling compounds to even them out. High spots may have to be grinded flat.

If you have a wooden subfloor that is uneven, the problem may be warped joists, or subfloor panels that are in bad condition.

Use the methods discussed in Chapter 4 to strengthen, reinforce, or shim your joists so the sub flooring above is flat.

If you have significantly warped subfloor panels, those should be replaced.

Also pay attention to the corners of your subfloor panels. Often times the corners can curl upwards creating a high point. Use extra screws to keep them down, or consider using a sander on the edges and corners of your subfloor to get them flat.

**Your subfloor is the foundation of your new flooring. Be sure it is clean, dry, sound and flat before you install your new flooring on top.**

**FREE eBook: Keep your wood floors in great condition all year long by reading my free ebook: The Four Season Guide to Wood Flooring.**

Wood floors are a great investment for just about any home. They are a timeless, durable, eco-friendly choice for your floors.

Wood flooring is a natural product, and it does take some care and maintenance to keep it in great condition. Each season presents it's own unique challenges to keep your floors in great condition.



## The 4 Season Guide to Wood Flooring eBook

Every family should live on a floor that is safe, sound and enjoyable.

This free guide will show you exactly what you need to do each season to keep your wood floors in great shape for years to come.

**Live your life on a firm foundation.**



The good news is that caring for and maintaining wood floors is very simple, and with proper care and maintenance wood floors can last for a lifetime.

[Download The Four Season Guide to Wood Flooring](#) now to make sure you know what you should be doing throughout the year to keep your wood floors in great condition and lasting for a lifetime.