

**MONARFLOOR'S TRANQUILT SYSTEM WINS
ANOTHER ROBUST DETAIL FOR ICOPAL**

- **Image available, see overleaf**

An innovative product which out-performs all other screed isolation systems has won a Robust Detail for the Monarfloor Acoustic Systems division of Icopal.

Monarfloor Tranquilt (E-FC-11) is now the only Robust Detail resilient layer manufactured in the UK and the only one made from 95% recycled foam, to score as well in sustainability rankings as it does in performance.

Development for the system was supported by Edinburgh Napier University and will now form part of a much larger housing system approach for Monarfloor innovations through a three-year Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP).

As well as being an exceptionally lightweight and truly robust system that is compatible with both sand and cement and proprietary flow screeds on new-build and refurbished floors, Tranquilt also acts as a vapour control layer, negating the need for other accessories.

For specifiers, Tranquilt is capable of exceeding the requirements of the Part E regulations in terms of impact and airborne sound insulation. Where Part E site tests for impact sound involving separating floors between dwellings and rooms for residential purposes demand 62dB or lower, Tranquilt delivers 46dB, and where airborne sound tests demand 45dB or higher, Tranquilt delivers 56dB.

For screeders and pre-cast manufacturers, Tranquilt is so workable it can be laid like carpet, even around surroundings including service pipes, internal and external corners and doorways. It is simply loose laid with an integral overlap seal over a structural concrete sub floor to receive the screed finish.

A one-part system that is screen printed with instructions, there is no need for separate flanking, jointing strips or corner details, and once laid, its superb dynamic stiffness prevents collapse under the weight of the overlaid screed.

In addition to its simplicity of installation, Monarfloor Acoustics has launched the first Robust Detail training animation (www.monarfloor.co.uk/tranquiltinstallation) as part of a two-part site monitoring system that includes a toolbox talk before construction starts and then final sign-off when the installer becomes registered with Icopal.

As an alternative to composite decks and systems which are heavy and expensive, and Polyethylene which is rigid and difficult to install well, Tranquilt brings a revolutionary approach to the sound proofing of floors in multi-storey residential buildings.

Tranquilt is now the only under-screed system that social housing specialist Jessup are using on every one of their six current schemes in the Midlands.

Senior buyer Tim Gough said: "Our screeding contractor was very familiar with the alternative foam systems approved by Robust Detail. However, they could be difficult to install on site due to the detailing. Since using Tranquilt we have had no issues or negative feedback which speaks volumes.

"Working for local housing associations our schemes are required to meet the Code for Sustainable Homes, currently levels 3 and 4. The results of sound testing have been excellent, well in excess of Robust Detail, giving us valuable additional credits towards achieving the Code."

Roddy Mackenzie, Icopal's construction product technologist partnered with Edinburgh Napier University, said the issue of the sustainability of acoustic materials had been raised at recent Institute of Acoustics' conferences.

"Tranquilt is both 95% recycled material and manufactured entirely in the UK, arresting a trend in the importation of under screed material from Europe and helping to keep costs to a minimum during the downturn," he said.

"Since my arrival in January it has been great to observe the seriousness and professionalism of Icopal staff in regards to onsite training and toolbox talks, embracing new instructional methods such as screen printing and especially the 3D animations which run the clients and tradesmen through every aspect of installation.

"Ensuring installers' attention to the little details is key to the success of the Robust Detail scheme and these animations allow the visual transfer of the knowledge no matter the previous experience or native language of the installers."

Steven Davies, associate with BBLB architects, said: "We have specified the Tranquilt acoustic floor quilt along with Monarfloor Bridgestop in a standard 275mm party wall and after sound testing expect this to give us the required enhanced results to attain all of the additional credits available under the Code for Sustainable Homes for party wall and floor performance."

Steve Patton, business development manager of the ALD Group which has installed Tranquilt on a dozen projects to date, estimates the system is up to 20% quicker than its competitors.

"It is very light and easy to use, just generally very straightforward and self-explanatory, not complicated at all. The rubber systems are far more difficult to put down because of their weight and the other foam systems are very finicky whereas Tranquilt is an incredibly light, one-part system," he said.

"The Robust Detail is important because it gives us access to a larger client base with a system we are happier to use," he added.

Dave Baker, chief executive of Robust Details Limited, said: "I am very pleased to be able to add Monarfloor Tranquilt to the Robust Details Handbook. It performed very well during assessment and has met the tougher-than-Building Regulations criteria that apply to the RDL scheme."

Monarfloor Tranquilt, in conjunction with other Monarfloor systems including the Robust Detailed Bridgestop insulation membrane, is capable of achieving up to four credits under the Code for Sustainable Homes.

The KTP with Napier will bring Icopal's materials and products experts together with the university's innovation experts to provide a pipeline of new systems for the housebuilding industry. Many of the full-scale prototype trials are being undertaken in Hangar 17 (BPAC) where the Building Performance Centre at Napier is the lead academic partner. The programme is being led by Sean Smith, Professor of Construction Innovation at the University.

Roddy Mackenzie said: "Working with us through the KTP scheme, Icopal is continuing to develop products that anticipate and exceed the acoustic requirements of both Robust Details and the Code for Sustainable Homes.

"In conjunction with a suite of second-generation products such as Bridgestop and Wall Cap, Tranquilt offers excellent acoustic airborne and impact performance, coupled with a significant cost saving to the industry over the alternatives required for the same output."

ENDS

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