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Subject: Re: Possible move

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 23 Jun 2010 18:48:04 GMT

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Walk across the floor, tap your feet. If you hear a hollow sound, then that will also be what you hear when playing your sound system.

I love the serviceability of a raised hardwood floor, the ability to get underneath and work on pipes and what-not. But they always seem to make for very bad acoustics. Every house I've been in with a raised hardwood floor made the stereo system sound terrible. That two to three foot crawlspace is a killer.

Don't confuse this with hardwood floors put on a concrete slab. That's a different matter, entirely. No boomy sound when you walk across them, they are solid. They are highly reflective, but not resonant. You can solve the floor reflection with a throw rug, no problem.

I have had the best luck with rooms that have solid concrete foundations, and framed drywall construction on all other surfaces. This gives a rigid ground, but lossy panels on every other surface. The drywall has some give, and that tends to damp the room modes a little bit.

Attached rooms can sometimes also be a problem, those that are highly resonant, like bathrooms, closets and sometimes kitchens. They can form resonant chambers in the same way that the crawlspace under a raised hardwood floor can. Naturally, you wouldn't try to put a stereo system in your shower, intuitively knowing that the reverberant echo you hear in that room will mess up the sound. But sometimes you don't realize how much an affect it can have on an adjacent room too.