Hearing is Believing

When you choose Interface’s Luxury Vinyl Tile with Sound Choice™ backing, you get best-in-class performance for reduced impact sound and floor-to-floor sound transmission. We’ve got the Quiet Mark™ certification to prove it. Associated with the U.K. Noise Abatement Society, Quiet Mark is the international award program for excellence in low-noise technology and solutions to unwanted noise.

The Cost of Noise
Even when we adapt to noise around us, it affects how we feel and how well we perform. A 2013 study from the University of Sydney found that the largest drain on employee morale resulted from a lack of sound privacy. A recent Harper’s Bazaar article, “How City Noise Is Slowly Killing You”, cites a study in which “clerical workers in a noisy room were less motivated to complete cognitive tasks and had elevated stress hormone levels, compared to those in a quiet room—but they didn’t feel particularly stressed.”

How We Can Help
We’re committed to creating +Positive spaces™ through our products, so we engineered our LVT’s Sound Choice backing to provide superior sound reducing qualities with enhanced cushioning and exceptional dimensional stability. Because it’s built in, there’s no need for an additional underlayment in most applications.
Impact Sound Improvement

Sliding chairs and loud footsteps are just a couple of examples of common impact noises in an office environment. Collectively these can create quite a distraction, but the right flooring makes all the difference.

In laboratory tests, our LVT with Sound Choice backing offered a 16 dB sound reduction as compared to traditional hard surfaces that only reduced it by 1-6 dB. Ten decibels may not seem like much, but it is actually a doubling of sound intensity. So, Interface LVT with Sound Choice reduces impact sound within a room by more than half.

Dawson County High School in Dawsonville, GA put it to the test when their school renovation included Interface LVT. Facility Manager Scott Morgan says, “Everybody loves it. There are two things everybody talks about – that it’s softer on the feet and somehow it just helps with the sound.”

Reducing Sound Transmission

IIC (Impact Insulation Class) is a measure of how much sound does NOT transfer from a floor to the room beneath. The higher the number, the less sound that is transferred. Typical sources of noise are footsteps or dropped objects.

Using a 6" concrete slab and a ceiling assembly, our LVT with Sound Choice backing scores an impressive 57. Traditional LVT averages between 45-50 and hard surfaces like concrete have a rating of 28-35. Our LVT can reduce twice as much sound as what's required to meet minimum standards for multifamily buildings. And it's eight times quieter in a room beneath Interface LVT than in one beneath concrete.

* An IIC# of 50 is the requirement for California Tile 24 Code/New York Section 1208.0 Provisions on Noise.