

# Flooring Repair Guide for Snohomish & King County Homes

A homeowner checklist for Flooring Repairs

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## Diagnose the Problem Area

- Walk slowly over the entire area, noting every spot that squeaks, creaks, or feels soft.
- Have a helper walk on the spot while you listen to pinpoint the exact source of the noise.
- If the floor is above a crawlspace or basement, go below and look for any issues directly under the problem spot (stains, loose joists).
- Photograph any visible damage: cracks in boards, water stains, or large gaps.
- Check all transition strips between rooms. Are they loose or bent?
- Gently press on the floor with your hands. Does it feel bouncy or solid?

## Fixing a Squeak (From Above)

- Use a stud finder to locate the floor joist nearest the squeak and mark it.
- If carpeted, use a Squeeeeeek No More kit and drive the special screw through the carpet into the joist.
- Use the kit's tool to snap the screw head off below the carpet surface.
- If hardwood, drill a tiny pilot hole in a dark grain line or seam over the joist.
- Drive a trim-head screw into the pilot hole, countersinking it slightly.
- Conceal the screw head with a small amount of color-matched wood putty.

## Checking for Red Flags

- Is there any dark discoloration or black staining on the wood? This indicates moisture.
- Does the floor feel spongy or deflect more than a tiny bit when you walk on it? This is a structural concern.
- Do you smell anything musty or mildewy? This points to a hidden water issue.
- Are the squeaks spread across an entire room rather than in one or two spots?
- Is the damaged board part of a complex pattern or a 'floating' laminate floor?

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