

# How to fix a squeaky floor

If you have an annoying floor squeak in your house, either loose floorboards are rubbing together or the nails that hold them down are moving in and out of their holes.

If the problem is under a carpet, it's best to lift it. Use a stud finder to locate the joists that run under the floor around the area of the squeak, and drive a galvanized finish nail through the floor, subfloor and into a joist in two or three places. The joist may be 1 in. to 1.5 in. below the surface.

You can even hammer the nail through a carpet if you are unable to lift it; simply pull up the pile after so the nail passes through it. If you can lift the carpet, you can also use drywall screws, as they won't pull out over time.

With hardwood floors, predrill a hole so the nails or screws won't split the

boards or bend. Use a counter bore so you can cover the nail or screw head with an oak plug.

## Carpet drying

If you are having your wall-to-wall carpet cleaned or are doing it yourself, you may think you can hurry along the drying process by turning up the heat. That could be a bad idea as mould grows actively between 20°C and 30°C (68°F-86°F). It's better to set up a fan to blow across the carpet and turn on the A/C (at just under 20°C) to reduce the humidity. The carpet should dry within two to eight hours.

These hints are adapted from *The Experts' Guide to Life at Home*, a book created by Samantha Ettus, Clarkson Potter Publishers, \$27.95. 🌿



## DID YOU HEAR...?

- There are more bacteria in your mouth right now than there are people on Earth.
- In the time it takes to read this sentence (about 15 seconds), the Earth will have moved through space by about 450 km.
- The fear of the number 666 is called hexakosioihexekontahexaphobia.