

So You Want to Update Your Bathroom – Why a Secure Subfloor is Necessary

Bathroom construction can be challenging, whether you're adding a new room or remodeling an existing bathroom. With a bathroom project, you're working in a tight space with a lot of fixtures, wiring and plumbing. If you're updating your bathroom, you're probably wondering how you can get the best result with the least expenditure of time and money. You may also be pondering whether a subfloor is even necessary under your new tile.

Why a Subfloor is Necessary

Some do-it-yourself remodelers and even construction professionals will argue that a new subfloor is unnecessary when laying new tile in the bathroom because it takes too much time and effort. We disagree, for a number of reasons.

- A new subfloor protects the original underlayment and keeps you from damaging it when you lay the new tile.
- A new subfloor provides a new, even surface on which to apply your new tile or other flooring.
- New subflooring is free from dirt and other substances that could hinder the tile from adhering.
- New subflooring is smooth and hasn't been compromised by traffic or changes in temperature.
- Attaching new subflooring before tiling guarantees that the new floor will be even and have little to no play. Ceramic tiles could pop out of alignment if the floor moves even a fraction of an inch. Plus, grout doesn't have the power to keep tiles in place if the boards underneath are warped.
- Cement board, or a similar product, will protect against the usual swelling and shrinkage that comes with seasonal temperature changes.

The Right Fasteners For a Secure Bathroom Subfloor

In addition to choosing the right materials for your bathroom subfloor project, it's also imperative to use the proper fasteners to install the boards on which you lay your flooring. Nails are economical and easy to install. Screws hold fast, but are more expensive and take more time, and thus more money, to install. There is now a better solution on the market for subfloor projects.

SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] Fasteners

SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] fasteners are designed specifically for subfloor applications, solving

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the issue of whether to use screws or nails when installing subflooring. As you know, nails can cause squeaky floors and may not stand up to the high moisture levels found in most bathrooms. Screws, on the other hand, have better holding power and can be adjusted, but are more time-consuming and expensive to install.

SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] fasteners, initially introduced in 1998, have gained vastly in popularity as they offer the best aspects of both screws and nails. Made to be used with a standard pneumatic nail gun, SCRAIL[®] fasteners go in like a nail, but hold like a screw. They are also coated with a special adhesive, so they hold fast and virtually eliminate squeaky floors, even in bathrooms that get a lot use and a lot of traffic.

SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] fasteners aren't just easy to use and helpful in getting rid of annoying squeaky floors. SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] fasteners have a number of features to recommend them for use in bathroom subfloors. Among them are:

- SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] fasteners are easy to install.
- SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] fasteners take less time to insert than traditional screws, being up to eight times faster than bulk screws and up to twice as fast as collated screws.
- Quicker installation means less time on the job and lower labor costs.
- No special equipment is needed. SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] fasteners can be installed using any conventional pneumatic nailer.
- Fine threads ensure they grip tightly when driven in, reducing squeaks.
- The FasCoat[®] finish available on SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] fasteners allows them to stand up to the often high humidity levels found in most bathrooms without compromising the floor foundation.
- SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] fasteners have been proven to greatly exceed the holding power of nails in the most commonly used subfloor material.

SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] fasteners are stocked in electro-galvanized standard steel, 2 1/4" long and .113/.120 in diameter. They are available in strips in 1M count boxes and coils in 2M count boxes. Additional sizes and finishes, like FasCoat[®] and stainless steel, are available upon special request. FasCoat[®] finish withstands more than an amazing 2,000 hours of salt spray testing, so rusting in your bathroom will never be an issue.

New to the SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®] line, SubLoc[®]-PRO SCRAIL[®] delivers all the benefits of SubLoc[®] SCRAIL[®], but with even stronger withdrawal and head pull-through values. Using the SubLoc[®]-PRO SCRAIL[®] fasteners on all your bathroom flooring projects gives both contractor and client the assurance of high quality construction. SubLoc[®]-PRO SCRAIL[®] for squeakless subfloors will save costs for builders and increase customer satisfaction.

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Working with SubLoc® SCRAIL® Fasteners

SubLoc® SCRAIL® fasteners are designed to be used in a conventional nailer. For best results, set the nailer on its lowest air pressure setting to consistently set the SCRAIL®. SubLoc® fasteners are also great applications other than bathroom flooring applications.

About Fasco America®

Fasco America®, Inc. is part of Austria's BECK Fastener Group®, one of the world's leading producers of fasteners and pneumatic tools for more than 100 years. Based in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, Fasco America® distributes a broad range of fasteners for construction applications like roofing, framing, decking, upholstery, fencing, window and door frames and subflooring as well as pneumatic devices such as staplers, nailers and other installation tools

To learn more about SubLoc® SCRAIL® and the other fasteners available through Fasco America®, Inc. and the BECK Fastener Group®, [contact](#) our main office or the Regional Manager serving your area. Additional information is also available on the SCRAIL® [Facebook Page](#) and videos are available on [YouTube](#).

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