

HOMASOTE VS. CONCRETE: A COMPARISON

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Benefit</i>	<i>Liability</i>	<i>Consequence</i>
<i>Sound testing</i>			
Homasote	Fully accredited sound tests for accurate ratings		Satisfies architects' desire for high-quality building materials
Concrete		No published sound tests – no technical support as a sound attenuating product	Cannot prove that the systems meet Federal standards
<i>STC & IIC Ratings</i>			
Homasote	Higher ratings for better/quieter buildings		More satisfied customers; reduced call-backs for noise complaints
Concrete		Old tests indicate lower STC & IIC ratings	Unsatisfied customers
<i>Fire tests</i>			
Homasote	Fire tests conducted and approved by the Underwriters Laboratory (UL)		Meet building code requirements; can be used in all UL listed L500 series floor/ ceiling assemblies
Concrete	Approved as a 1-hour fire rated system		Meet building code requirements; can be used in all UL listed L500 series floor/ ceiling assemblies
<i>Permanence</i>			
Homasote	Permanent sound deadening for longer-lasting floor systems		More satisfied customers; reduced call-backs
Concrete		Subject to cracking and crumbling over time, due to expansion and contraction of plywood subfloor	Reduced sound deadening; finished floor falls apart; unsatisfied customers
<i>Weight</i>			
Homasote	Lightweight; less trusses required in floor assembly		Reduces overall cost of job in both materials and labor
Concrete		Heavy (6 lbs./sq. ft.); more trusses required in floor assembly	:Increases overall cost of materials and labor

Installation

Homasote	Easily handled by installer; allows other subcontractors to keep working	Quick building completion; saves money
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Concrete	Requires dedicated installation team; building must be closed to other contractors	Downtime on the job site
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Timing

Homasote	Can be installed in any weather, at any time during building process	Quicker building completion; saves money
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Concrete	Cannot be installed in excessive cold; must be installed all at once after walls are in	Longer building time; costs more money
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Finished product

Homasote	No curing time	Quicker building completion; saves money
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Concrete	Must cure before re-entering building; introduces moisture into the interior	Slows building completion; costs money; may cause moisture-related problems
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