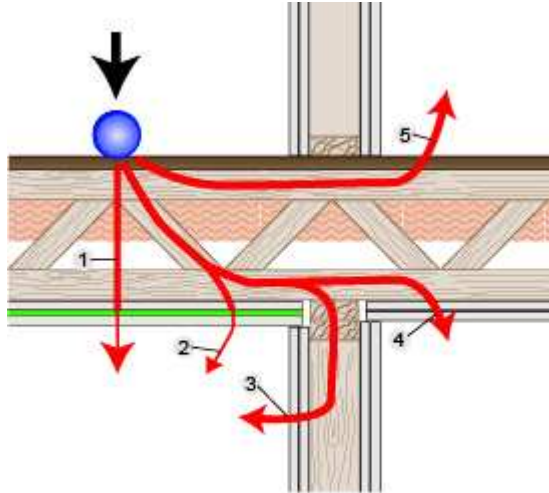


# Upgrading Existing Ceilings

## If the ceiling can NOT be removed:

If you cannot remove the existing drywall on the ceiling, then your options are limited. The best way to treat the problem in this case would be to:

1. Blow insulation into the ceiling cavities if they aren't already insulated.
  2. Add a sound isolation compound (example: Green Glue) and another layer of drywall to the existing ceiling.
- Keep in mind that not being able to treat the noise at the source will mean there will still be flanking noise. An example of flanking noise is shown below with path #3.



## If the ceiling can be removed:

If you can remove the drywall, your options are much broader, and you can use the sound isolation compound to treat the sound at the source. Below is what can be done to treat the underside of the upstairs floor and the new ceiling.

The floor can be upgraded from below by treating it with Green Glue and drywall (or plywood, OSB, etc.) as shown in the picture to the right.

By treating the floor from beneath, much of the benefits of a treated floor can be attained. Performance won't match 2 layers of sub-floor with Green Glue in between, but it can help a lot.

In some situations, existing duct-work or other structures will get in the way, but it is still preferable to do as much as you can. This is the only upgrade available to you if you can't remove the existing floors above and install Green Glue between two layers of subfloor. In order to eliminate all flanking noise, you may have to install Green Glue and/or sound clips to the walls of the downstairs room as well. It is important to use an acoustical caulk/sealant around and between the drywall in order to get a good acoustical seal.

