

Ideas & Innovations: Building materials

QUIETROCK IS ROLLING

Maker of new kind of sheetrock finds growing demand in homes

By Michael Bazeley
Mercury News

If you've ever tried to drift off to sleep while your spouse listens to the latest Terminator movie on the 600-watt home theater in the next room, or attempted to finish a good book while your son rocks out to his favorite metal band, Kevin Surace knows your pain.

Surace is the chief executive of Quiet Solution, a Sunnyvale company that is all about sound — and keeping it in its place.

The company offers sound-damping solutions for cars, trucks, airplanes, railways, boats, ships, machines and appliances. But one of Quiet Solution's fastest-growing areas is the home construction business.

"Whether you're living in an apartment, a condo or a home, today you're putting in a home theater, and that has changed how you think about what happens on the other side of the wall," Surace said.

Enter QuietRock, a high-tech, sound-damping sheetrock intended to help builders create "quiet places" in new homes.

Standard sheetrock, which is used to construct the majority of walls in new homes, is made of gypsum sandwiched between two sheets of heavy paper. Inexpensive and easy to install, sheetrock also happens to vibrate badly

WHAT'S NEW

■ QuietRock is a type of sheetrock that absorbs sound waves.

■ It's made of a gel-like substance that converts sound waves to energy.

■ QuietRock was developed by Sunnyvale company Quiet Solution and is being used in new home construction.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.quietsolution.com

when sound waves hit it, allowing you to hear muffled dinner conversation in the apartment next door.

QuietRock is made of five layers of gypsum, steel and viscoelastic polymers, a gel-like substance that converts sound waves into heat.

"So less acoustic energy is transmitted to the other side," Surace said.

QuietRock is significantly more expensive than regular sheetrock. But it doesn't need to be used throughout a house. Surace said it's ideal for common walls between apartments or condos, or to encase home theater or music rooms.

Contact Michael Bazeley at mbazeley@mercurynews.com or (408) 920-5642.

Have a suggestion for an Ideas & Innovations profile? E-mail us at innovations@mercurynews.com.



JOANNE HOYOUNG LEE — MERCURY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS

Kevin Surace, above, is chief executive of Quiet Solution, maker of QuietRock, a type of sheetrock. Ramon Mendoza, below, puts an additive in a mixer for soundproof coating at the company's Sunnyvale headquarters.

