MASON UK LTD
Noise, Vibration & Thermal Engineering

Unit 6, Abbey Business Park, Monks Walk
Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8HT
Tel: 01252 716610, Fax: 01252 716630
E-mail: info@mason-uk.co.uk
Web: www.mason-uk.co.uk

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Isolation Bearing Installation Guide – Rubber Only

Isolation bearings are engineered rubber blocks which support part of, or an entire structure and greatly reduce the transmission of vibration. They are designed to last the life of a building without maintenance or inspection.

Each bearing is designed to support the load at a specific location. The correct installation of the bearings is critical to their longevity and functionality.

Follow the below points when planning and carrying out the installation of isolation bearings.

Bearings are a critical part of the structure. If there is any doubt, contact Mason UK.

1. Contacting surfaces above and below bearings should be cleaned of all solvents and oils.
2. Bearings typically have metal reinforcing buried within as part of their construction. To move heavy bearings, use a magnet and suitable manual handling equipment to lift and place into their final location.
3. Place the bearing directly down on the supporting surface. If desired, rubber based adhesive can be used to locate and prevent movement of smaller bearings.
4. Refer to bearing markings and structural drawings to ensure that the correct bearing is in the correct location and the orientation is accurate.
5. Place the pouring form or pre-fabricated structural element directly on top of the bearing as per the structural drawings. Rubber based adhesive can be used to help locate if required.
6. The upper and lower bearing surfaces must be fully supported.
7. Hold down bolts can be used as per the photograph above/
    a. Bearings are designed to compress under load and are substantially less stiff than concrete or steel.
    b. Hold down bolts can be used to hold pieces of structure in position during construction.
    c. Once the structure is complete these must be removed or fitted with isolation washers or the isolation will be compromised.
8. As the construction adds weight to the bearings they will compress. Refer to structural drawings and make allowances for this as necessary.
9. Once installed the bearings are to be protected from oils and solvents. They are weatherproof but must be protected from significant ice build-up.