

BASIC SOUNDPROOFING FOR PUBS AND CLUBS

A Guide for the Venue Owner



"In 2006 noisy pubs, clubs & entertainment venues affected over 5 million people in the UK that is approx 9 % of the population."

(From a Mori Poll conducted in 2006)

Our research would suggest this has dramatically increased in the last 2 years.

Noise produced from a band playing in a pub or music from a Nightclub can be very loud and is a common noise problem. Due to the nature of this noise and its volume there is only so much you can do to reduce it. We have produced some starting points below which will help contain the noise as much as possible without rebuilding the property.

CAN'T I JUST STICK ON EGG BOX FOAM TO STOP THE NOISE/MUSIC LEAVING MY PREMISES?

The simple answer is no. If you have a noisy venue you need to soundproof the space. Adding acoustic foam or sound absorbing products will only reduce the echo and reverberation in the space. See more about this at the bottom of the page.

WHERE IS MY NOISE ESCAPING FROM?

Noise is like air and will escape from anywhere it can. It normally leaves a room through gaps around windows, doors, ventilation ducts etc. The sound can also travel through the structure of the building into adjacent buildings, particularly when large volumes of music are being produced.

HOW DO I STOP IT LEAVING THROUGH MY DOORWAYS?

To reduce sound leakage around a door you will need to add good quality acoustic seals to the door and frame. This means a seal that will sit in the door jam around the sides and the top and a threshold seal that seals the bottom of the door. We supply ready to install kits that will help this. See HERE.

The door should also be a solid core fire door with at least a 60 minute rating. These can be bought from most reputable timber suppliers as well as some builders merchants.

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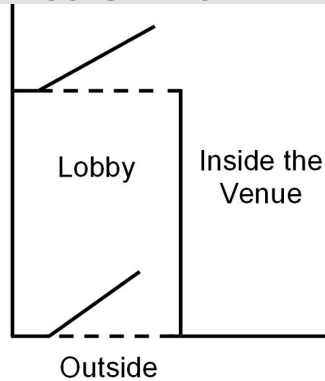
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MY DOORS ARE OPEN A LOT OF THE TIME...WHAT CAN I DO?



If your outer door is open a large amount of the time you will need to build a lobby type arrangement. Like the picture shown (left).

If you have a noise problem you will be unable to have a through draft and let fresh air enter through an open doorway.

Both these doors will require [Acoustic Seals](#) and should have door closers on them. Ideally they should never be open at the same time.

If you do not already have a lobby arrangement you can easily build one using our materials. This can be made from a double stud frame.

See [here](#) for more info.

I AM ALSO WORRIED ABOUT MY WINDOWS WHAT CAN I DO WITH THEM?



The best way to reduce noise through a window is to brick the space up with high density building blocks. If this is not an option then you will need to add secondary glazing. The thicker the glazing the better the reduction.

Most venues will have double glazing installed. This on its own is not enough to reduce loud noise leaving the venue. We would advise installing another window of double glazing as far away from the first window as possible. This will give you secondary glazing as seen on the left. Generally speaking the bigger the air gap between the windows the better the reduction will be.

If you are unable to do this then your only option is to build a removable window plug. Or build 18mm MDF shutters to move in front of the windows when loud music is being produced. See our article on this [HERE](#)

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We would advise sitting the speakers on our [Vibration Pad](#) this will decouple and reduce the transference of sound along the floor.

If you have a lot of bands or DJ's playing at your venue it would be advisable to run some sound tests and maybe add a limiter on your amplifier. This would mean if the sound reached a certain level it would cut the amp and the music would stop. Whilst this may help you keep your licence it may annoy the band or DJ. For more info on this click [HERE](#)

CAN I SOUNDPROOF MY STAGE OR WALLS ?

If you use a stage or performing platform ensure that there is some good [Acoustic Mineral Wool](#) underneath and some [Soundproofing Mat](#) on the top of the stage. This will help reduce the resonance that a hollow stage will produce.

The walls of your venue need to ideally be breeze block or brick walls. Lightweight plasterboard walls do not offer sufficient sound blocking. Lightweight acoustic insulation like standard density Rockwool will **NOT** reduce sound leaving the premises.

If you wish to up rate the walls please see the various solutions we have [HERE](#) and call our technical team on 0845 363 7131 to discuss the options.

CAN I STICK SOUND ABSORBING PRODUCTS TO THE WALL TO REDUCE THE SOUND?

When a pub or club gets busy and many people are talking there can sometimes be a battle to hear a conversation. This is normally because the overall sound in the room is bouncing off reflective hard surfaces such as wooden floors, wall and ceilings.

Because of the overall volume premises tend to turn up their music so it can still be heard. In order to reduce the level of sound that the room creates you can install soft sound absorbing products which adhere to the [ceiling](#) and high up on the [walls](#). These absorbers will mean conversation is clearer, staff don't have to shout at customers and the overall music level can be reduced.

So the answer is, Yes. Using sound absorbers can help reduce the overall sound leaving the building as by using them less sound is generated in the first place.

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However, using sound absorbers alone will not soundproof the building. If you are unsure what to use then just ask us.

IS THERE ANY POINT IN DOING ALL THIS?

Yes there is. If you've had noise complaints from neighbours your local environmental health officer may well have been called. They have the power to remove your public performer's license until you have taken necessary steps to reduce the sound.

By following our guide and showing this to them you can prove you are taking the matter seriously and doing all you can to reduce the problem.

PLEASE NOTE.

The information in this article is given in good faith. The advice above will help reduce noise pollution. For premises that have a severe noise problem, we would advise a noise survey is conducted by an Acoustic consultant who will then make recommendations to achieve a solution. When this has been done, we can then supply any of the materials necessary to achieve that solution. Most noise consultants charge about £300/day plus expenses and we will be pleased to give details of the nearest consultants if required. Please email tech@soundservice.co.uk or call 0845 363 7131 for more info.

If you find the web links does not work in this article please go to http://www.soundservice.co.uk/soundproofing_for_pubs_and_clubs.html where you can see an electronic version.

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