



Noise Control for Nightclubs, Restaurants, Bars, and Cafes Product and Services Guidance Sheet

The following list is intended to provide owners of nightclubs, restaurants, bars and cafes who play music with information on a range of acoustical products, vendors, and professional services available to help control sound and vibration in their establishments and buildings. When applied properly, these acoustical tools may be helpful in reducing sound and vibration, and in achieving compliance with the New York City Noise Code, rules and regulations.

While the general approach to noise control is the same for most buildings, the specific measures and solutions should be carefully selected and implemented correctly. In general, noise control measures can be applied directly at the source, along the pathway, or at the receptor. However, amplified music from nightclubs and establishments has very strong low frequency components (e.g., the “thump” of a bass guitar or drums), which are the most difficult sounds to isolate and control. For these reasons, it is highly recommended that establishment owners discuss their particular noise condition with a qualified acoustical consultant as early as possible in the design or renovation of a prospective building or location. It is always more cost-effective to design for good acoustics from the beginning of a project, rather than to rely on retrofit solutions when noise becomes a problem in the future.

To aid in the selection of an acoustical consultant, links to several national professional are provided. (See also, http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/noise_consultants_list.pdf.) It is suggested that the proprietor, or the consultant, determine where the nearest receptor dwelling is located. It is also suggested that the proprietor utilize the following controls [or equivalent] to block, absorb or limit sounds migrating to those and other receptors.

The information provided here is not an exhaustive list of noise control products and vendors. It is ***intended for guidance and informational purposes only***, and should not be construed as an official endorsement of any product, vendor, or consultant by the City of New York.

Acoustical Consultants

- Acoustical Society of America <http://acousticalsociety.org>
- Institute of Noise Control Engineering <http://inceusa.org>
- National Council of Acoustical Consultants <http://ncac.com>

Ceiling and Wall Sound Isolation

Products designed to mechanically isolate or add mass to walls and ceilings in order to increase acoustical isolation performance.

- Acoustiblok Acoustiblok, Acoustiblok-Wallcover www.acoustiblok.com
- AcoustiGuard GenieClip, Mass Loaded Vinyl, Barrier Material, Iso-sill www.acoustiguard.com
- Green Glue Noiseproofing compound, sealant, and clip www.greengluecompany.com
- Kinetics Model ICC, KSCH, IsoGrid, IsoMax, PSB, KWSB, Wallmat, IPRB www.kineticsnoise.com
- Mason Industries 30 and 30N Series, NPS, DNSB www.mason-industries.com

Floor Sound Isolation

Products for the design of floating or vibration-isolated floors.

- Acoustiblok Acoustiblok, Acoustiwool, Acoustipad www.acoustiblok.com
- AcoustiGuard OT 4005 & 4010, Duraoustic, Barrier Material, Iso Sep 25HD, www.acoustiguard.com
- Kinetics Model RIM, SR Floorboard, Soundmatt, FC, Isolation BR www.kineticsnoise.com
- Mason Industries Type FS, RIS, EAFM www.mason-industries.com
- Vibro-Acoustics Isolation pads, Form work floor system, Jack-up floating floor www.vibro-acoustics.com

Sound Absorptive Wall Treatments

Products designed to mount on interior walls and ceiling surfaces in order to absorb acoustic energy (note - only useful for reducing reverberant noise).

- Acoustiblok QuietFiber www.acoustiblok.com
- Acoustical Wall Panel www.acousticalsurfaces.com

Surfaces

- Eckel Industries Model EFP, FFP, ALP, DAP www.eckelusa.com
- Industrial Acoustics Absorption Panels www.industrialacoustics.com
- Pyrok, Inc. Acoustement Plaster www.pyrokinc.com

Acoustical Doors and Windows

Doors and windows specially designed for high acoustic performance.

- Acoustical Surfaces Noise S.T.O.P. Doors and Windows www.acousticalsurfaces.com
- Krieger Specialty Products Acoustical and SCIF Doors and Windows www.kriegerproducts.com
- Overly Door Company Acoustical Doors www.overly.com

Audio Compressors and Limiters

Signal processing equipment used to control the dynamic range and limit the peak output level of amplified sound.

- Alesis Model 3632 www.alesis.com
- Behringer PRO-XL MDX Series www.behringer.com
- dBX Models 160, 162, 166, 1046, and 1066 www.dbxpro.com

Directional Loudspeaker Arrays

Loudspeakers arrays designed to focus amplified sound towards specific audience areas and limit excess sound projected elsewhere (note – only useful for reducing community noise levels when used at outdoor venues).

- EAW KF Series www.eaw.com
- JBL Vertec Series www.jblpro.com
- Mackie HD Series www.mackie.com