

Escaping the Noise

Three ways to add noise barriers for when you need a little peace and quiet in the open office.



With at least 70% of organisations embracing the open office plan and people spending more than half their day working with others, it's safe to say the workplace is a bit noisy. Modern design trends that include exposed ceilings and minimalist aesthetics add to how noise can reverberate and carry throughout a large space. Sure, it's nice to interact with our colleagues, but the truth is, all that extra noise can create a stressful and distracting environment.

Research shows we need a healthy balance between quiet focus and face-to-face time. In fact, 38% of employees wish they had more access to private spaces for acoustic and visual privacy. But, with shushing frowned upon and conferences rooms often unavailable, how can people easily find a little peace and quiet during the workday?

Let's explore noise barriers that can work in any floorplan.



1. PODS

Whether you need to make a phone call or have a small team meeting, pods can easily accommodate a variety of user needs. These easy to install, modular rooms act as freestanding workspaces with small footprints. Choose from a wide selection of sizes and styles from [Orangebox](#), [Officebricks](#).



2. STEELCASE FLEX ACOUSTIC BOUNDARY

Need a quiet space in seconds? No problem. The [Steelcase Flex Acoustic Boundary](#) is designed to move with you. (After all, it is on wheels.) Each one improves acoustic performance and provides an on-demand boundary for space division.

The Steelcase Flex Acoustic Boundary will be available in Europe, the Middle East and Africa spring 2020.



3. DIVISIO ACOUSTIC SCREEN

The [Divisio Acoustic Screen](#) was developed to provide privacy and offer acoustic comfort to people working in the open plan. Free standing or part of a worksurface application, it offers a great sound absorption coefficient of 0.7. It's available in a broad range of fabrics allowing you to personalise texture and color.

Want to dive more deeply into our acoustic research? Read [Acoustics, Work and the Physical Environment](#) where we share thought starters on settings that can enhance people's wellbeing and performance at work.

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