

Design

Escaping the Noise

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

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With at least 70% of organizations 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](#), IRYS.

P.S. We've got some tips to consider before selecting your pod.



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 acoustic boundary is available in two sizes and easily holds Steelcase Flex Markerboards, so your ideas can go wherever you do.



3.

V.I.A.

For a seamless way to create enclosed workspaces while still maintaining that airy, open feel in your office, look to [V.I.A.](#) Short for Vertical Intelligent Architecture, V.I.A. walls encourage human interaction by providing true acoustical privacy and hosting technology. These walls portray a sense of permanence while having the speed and design flexibility of a relocatable wall, allowing for a range of applications.

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