

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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