Subject: Concrete walls
Posted by Rockstar on Sat, 26 Apr 2014 16:04:19 GMT
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We want to set up a home theater in our basement. We have finished it off but we still have concrete walls. Will this make a difference with the sound quality? Should we do something with the walls?

Subject: Re: Concrete walls
Posted by LoveJB on Fri, 16 May 2014 22:21:09 GMT
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I would imagine that the concrete walls will produce a different sound. I don't know what you would do, besides insulate them and throw up some drywall. You might just have to give it a shot and see how it sounds.

Subject: Re: Concrete walls
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 17 May 2014 05:41:49 GMT
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Concrete walls make room modes much more pronounced than rooms with less rigid walls. You'll want to add some damping, like panel absorbers, for best results.

Subject: Re: Concrete walls
Posted by Round2 on Fri, 06 Jun 2014 10:17:23 GMT
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Concrete walls are not good for the overall sound in the room. I would put up sheets of drywall to help with the acoustics in the room and not to mention giving the room a finished look.

Subject: Re: Concrete walls
Posted by MusicWife on Thu, 04 Feb 2016 08:32:12 GMT
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Oh, interesting. We're having a new house built, and are having a room in the basement turned into a media room. The builder has given us about a million options as far as finishing it, for sound quality goes. Of course, they all come with a price, and some are quite hefty. Are there any things we absolutely MUST have? I think some of the stuff must just be builder padding. I'm sure they'll put it in, but probably aren't really necessary. Any recommendations, or advice would

be greatly appreciated.

Subject: Re: Concrete walls
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 08 Feb 2016 19:48:45 GMT
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Most builders don't know anything abpout sound.  It's just not what they do.

My suggestion is to read and understand room acoustics and then direct your builder with choices that make sense for you.

Usually, framed drywall construction is somewhat damped already, just by the nature of the materials and construction.  But if you have concrete walls, then you'll need to apply damping of some sort, otherwise the whole room echoes like a shower stall.  The best would be constrained layer, false walls or some other sort of panel absorbers for low frequencies combined with acoustic wedges for medium and high-frequency damping.  Drapes can be used to cover the wedges for a more residential aesthetic, and they provide some HF damping of their own.