
Subject: Sound masking vs sound absorption
Posted by [sawyer25](#) on Thu, 27 Sep 2018 18:19:53 GMT
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These two terms are used interchangeably when talking about acoustic treatment but their application can be confusing. What is the main difference and is it important to consider the difference when looking to improve room acoustics?

Subject: Re: Sound masking vs sound absorption
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Thu, 11 Oct 2018 14:05:44 GMT
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Recently I replaced some old flimsy curtains with some insulated ones. They stand out from the window more also. I think it has really enhanced the quality of sound within the room, seems there's more detail with the music. Curtains I found out aren't all that cheap, even all the peripheral hardware is expensive. I saved money by making the curtain rods out of electrical conduit and spray paint with wooden drawer knobs screwed to a dowel and just press fit on the end's. Something to consider with a spouse that would roll their eyes at the notion of acoustic panels all over the walls.

Subject: Re: Sound masking vs sound absorption
Posted by [Jazzy](#) on Thu, 11 Oct 2018 23:34:45 GMT
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Based on the terminology used, sound masking is like a sound filtering. I think this is similar to the thin foam placed over the microphone, or the cloth screen between the singer and the microphone when recording in a studio.

Sound absorption can be what Rusty has described.

Subject: Re: Sound masking vs sound absorption
Posted by [Madison](#) on Fri, 05 Apr 2019 14:47:23 GMT
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Rusty, did you use thermal insulated curtains such as the kind that are supposed to help with energy efficiency? Or did you use some other specialty curtain that mainly targets sound? Your project sounds cool. I'm glad to hear it turned out well.

Subject: Re: Sound masking vs sound absorption
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 10 Apr 2019 14:29:14 GMT
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They were called room darkening curtains. They have some insulating material to them sandwiched in. Got them at Costco on sale. The curtains would have been cheaper than the hardware to hang them if I hadn't hit upon using the conduit pipe. That's where they get you in the pocket book.

Subject: Re: Sound masking vs sound absorption
Posted by [Reggie](#) on Sun, 14 Jul 2019 15:06:12 GMT
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Can we use styrofoam to absorb sound? What other materials, except curtains, can be used to absorb sound? Theaters have carpeted walls, do carpets absorb sound better than curtains?

Subject: Re: Sound masking vs sound absorption
Posted by [Kingfish](#) on Wed, 13 Nov 2019 03:44:50 GMT
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Comforters might work, Reggie. :d And if you want to go all out, shag carpeting.

Soft and thick is what you need to keep in mind when thinking about sound dampening.
