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Best Practices for Reducing Open Office Distractions with Sound Masking

Open work spaces come with many distractions: conversations among co-workers, phones ringing, printers, even outdoor noises.

Our ability to perform at top level is directly tied to our ability to focus and distractions take our focus from our work and direct it elsewhere. In addition to productivity concerns there may also be confidentially issues.

Think in terms of the ABCs of sound when dealing with these acoustic-related issues:

A = Absorption

Sound waves are absorbed into the carpet, soft cubical wall or the acoustical ceiling tile. This is your first line of defense against distracting work place noises.

B = Block

Just as the word implies, we're talking about blocking the sound wave with a wall or a panel to keep it from continuing on its path.

C = Cover

To cover means to overlay a new sound over the existing sound to make it less distracting, even pleasant.

AtlasIED designs and manufactures multiple speech privacy or sound masking solutions for many different office spaces; from a single room to a multi-story, multi-zoned high riser office building. Contact us if you'd like to investigate a solution for your space.

When it comes to sound masking, remember the ABCs:

A

Absorption

B

Block

C

Cover

A properly designed, installed and tuned speech privacy system is undetectable because it floods the space with this low level background noise.

There are some things it can't do, though:

- Sound masking doesn't take any sound away
- It doesn't stop echoes
- Sound masking can't eliminate a loud co-worker's voice