



CREATING ACOUSTICALLY SOUND PUBLIC SPACES

AVENUE INTERIOR SYSTEMS

1300 827 177

CREATING ACOUSTICALLY SOUND PUBLIC SPACES

Good acoustic design is critical in indoor sports and public halls, theatres, cinemas and restaurants. Reverberated noise in such spaces can reach levels which negatively impact on our enjoyment and experience. The addition of sound absorptive materials is important to ensure noise levels are maintained at comfortable levels.

To lessen reverberation you need to work with the materials covering the surface of the space. Adding the incorrect material, such as tiles, will worsen the reverberation, however adding too much absorption will “deaden” the room.

Public Spaces

Building materials used to construct airports, bus and train stations, multipurpose halls, gymnasiums and indoor activity spaces are generally hard. This causes severe reverberation. As there are no obstacles in large areas, noise can travel freely, bouncing off the walls, floors, and ceilings.

Generally, in a public space, focus will be on reducing volume, echo and reverberation as opposed to a complete soundproofing solution.

A persistent echo can disrupt even the most engaging discussions, so taking steps to prevent echoing in spaces where people like to gather makes sense.

We have collated options for decorative and permanent solutions. Depending on the type of public space, some of these suggestions may not apply.

DECORATIVE AND PERMANENT ACOUSTIC SOLUTIONS

If you are after a decorative noise control solution:

1. **Hang curtains** - Hang curtains everywhere, not just on the windows, but also over the walls. The dense texture of the curtain will dampen reverberation and echoes in a room.
2. **Replace Metal Blinds with Fabric Blinds** – metal blinds are another hard surface for sound waves to bounce off. Fabric blinds will act as an absorption material reducing the amount of reverberation in your space.
3. **Add rugs or carpet** – as we know, noise bounces off hard surfaces such as wood or concrete floors. Changing your flooring to a soft cover will reduce the reverberation in a public space
4. **Add a couch** – not an option for every public space. A beautiful plush couch would not be ideal in a swimming venue. Adding large cushiony couches are a great way to add extra seating to your venue while creating another noise absorption solution.
5. **Fill Up the Bookshelves** – paper is an excellent sound absorber.
6. **Add plants** – Plants are a versatile option, you can move them around your facility to where the biggest concern is, and they can be used in most large spaces to reduce excess noise.



DECORATIVE AND PERMANENT ACOUSTIC SOLUTIONS

7. **Cushions and Blankets** – cushions and blankets aren't the best solutions for many public spaces, however, in a large sports stadium, it could be unique to watch your favourite basketball team with a rug over your knees. Cushions and rugs work in the same way curtains, and sofas do.

8. **Acoustic Foam and Fabric Panels** – if you are searching for a more permanent and highly-effective solution to noise, acoustic foams and panels are an excellent option. Best practice for foams is to apply them directly to walls and ceilings.



About Avenue Interior Systems

Avenue Interior Systems take noise treatment to the next level with our fully customised, engineer-designed internal acoustic and soundproofing solutions.

Avenue Interior Systems specialises in office, education, retail, public spaces, hospitality, banks and medical acoustics. Our staff offer both onsite and remote assistance to ensure your acoustic design is perfect for you.