

VAUGHAN SOUND **FOCUS ON:** **SOUND MASKING TECHNOLOGY**



IS WORKPLACE SPEECH PRIVACY A REQUIREMENT?

Are conversations in your workplace a distraction? Is speech privacy a concern?

We have the solution through the use of sound masking technology.

The majority of modern offices are open plan; designed with aesthetics, information sharing and team collaboration in mind. In such spaces, sound masking is essential to an effective and productive working environment.

The basic principle of sound masking technology involves the introduction of a background unobtrusive sound via ceiling mounted emitters, strategically positioned at regular intervals within the workspace.

This effectively creates an area in which the close range audio (5-6m), dialogue and spoken word is diffused and camouflaged.

It is a fact that in many instances, regulations and compliance dictate basic levels of privacy.

View our **What is Sound Masking?** explanatory video on our website.

“Workers in open office environments are up to 66% less productive than those with acoustic privacy.”

Julian Treasure - Chairman of The Sound Agency, leading sound expert, author of the book ‘Sound Business’

The advantages:

- Protect speech privacy.
- Increase productivity in the workplace.
- Reduce distractions and unpleasant background noise.
- Eliminate the need for expensive construction or sound absorption materials.

Simple, cost-effective solutions to enable speech privacy in the workplace

There are three simple rules to improving the acoustics of a space:

- A – ABSORB** Absorption of sound waves using ceiling tiles and acoustic treatment.
- B – BLOCK** Blocking by using panels, partitions, walls, windows etc.
- C – COVER** Covering by adding a high quality sound masking system.



Of the three, **C offers the most effective, affordable and environmentally friendly option.**

In our experience, many clients who install sound masking also install acoustic treatment.

Contact us today and/or see www.vaughansound.co.uk/products/acoustic_treatment for more information.

How does adding sound reduce distractions and mask the conversations of others?

Sound masking involves a **discrete audio system**, which **adds low level, unobtrusive background sound within the frequencies of the human speech spectrum.**

The purpose of sound masking is to **reduce the intelligibility of speech** in a localised area, uniformly filtering down into the treated space below. The added sound actually makes the space seem quieter by reducing the intelligibility of human speech. When you cannot fully hear or understand what someone is saying, their voice is significantly less distracting - in fact, you may not even notice them at all.

The masking sound is programmed to be both **comfortable and effective at masking human speech.** This in turn **greatly increases concentration levels and productivity.**

Most conventional sound masking systems are **linked to public address and/or background music systems.**



Who benefits?

Architects/Designers: Improve the acoustics of a space, whether new build or retrofitted.

Business Owners: Increase the productivity of your workforce by reducing noise distractions.

Consultants: Create a collaborative working environment without sacrificing the acoustics.

Contractors: Eliminate the need for costly absorption and blocking materials including partitions.

Employees: Enjoy a much more comfortable workplace with fewer distractions.

Facilities Managers: Increase worker satisfaction and productivity, thus reducing operating costs.

Healthcare Administrators: Improve patient confidentiality in the open ward.

HR Managers/Privacy & Compliance Managers: Comply with speech privacy regulations.

Property Managers: Increase the value of your spaces.

Typical Applications



CALL CENTRES

Open floor plans, small workstations, lack of sufficient partitions and proximity to other colleagues are common reasons why call centres are among the worst acoustic environments to work in.

Sound masking eliminates noisy backgrounds, overcoming cross-talk between offices and corridors to make inter-office conversations inaudible. We can help maximise worker density while maintaining productivity and privacy.

Our solutions also enhance patient privacy and confidentiality, providing visitors with peace of mind and safeguarding personal health information.

Sound masking allows patients and staff to experience a positive ambience in open design concepts, especially on wards and at nurse stations. It can be used to enable patients to sleep better, resulting in an improvement in medical outcomes and the overall perception of comfort and quality of care.

Satisfaction and quality of care are vital in a patient's rehabilitation. Many medical institutions are seeking ways to increase acoustic comfort and privacy.

HEALTH CENTRES, DOCTORS SURGERIES, HOSPITALS, RECEPTION AREAS



MEETING ROOMS, CONFERENCE ROOMS & OPEN PLAN OFFICES

During the construction of office spaces, acoustics and sound privacy are often overlooked. Modern finishes such as glass and modular walls improve the aesthetics within, but also let the sound out.

We help ensure that private meetings stay private. Vaughan Sound's dedicated corporate sound masking solutions are ideal for important meetings and sensitive communication, where speech privacy comes at a premium.

Our speech privacy systems feature low power usage, and include an intuitive control panel and illuminated privacy status signs as standard. They can easily be added to existing spaces or included in new plans for a fraction of the cost of a complete conference room/office redesign.

OUR **QUALIFIED** APPROACH

How we can help you

Vaughan Sound Installations Ltd is a specialist supplier and installer of integrated sound masking solutions to a range of industry sectors.

Founded in 1964, we have since built an enviable reputation for delivering sound solutions to local and national clients. The company is **ISO 9001** accredited, **CHAS** (Contractors Health and Safety Assessment Scheme) compliant, **Constructionline** registered and **SAFEcontractor** approved.

Additionally, we are registered members of the Electrical Contractors' Association (**ECA**), Active Members of **Infocomm** (the International Audiovisual Association), and Supporting Members of the Institute of Sound and Communications Engineers (**ISCE**). A complete list of our accreditations and credentials can be found on our website.

Vaughan Sound is well accustomed to working with clients, contractors, architects and designers from initial concept through to handover, training and post-contract support. We provide an integrated full service offering, delivered by our experienced, highly qualified team of sound engineers.

We install systems which deliver uniform sound masking by projecting from the ceiling, rather than through it. Small, flush mounted, discrete emitters (which come in a range of colours or can be RAL matched to blend into the ceiling space) create almost 180° of sound dispersion, delivering uniform and unobtrusive sound masking. The emitters can be installed in any ceiling surface material, including acoustic tiles, beams, drywall, metal, and wood.



Powered by simple, easy to adjust room controls which feature six discrete volume level selections, **sound masking is the perfect solution to open plan spaces or areas suffering from sound overspill and lack of speech privacy.**



“A solution with proven results.”



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Vaughan Sound **Focus On:** Sound Masking Technology
T 01554 740500 E info@paigroup.com www.paigroup.com

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