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Ceiling soundproofing is either footstep noise and airborne noise. Footstep noise is easily understood, airborne noise can be voices, TV, stereo, kids playing and more. It's important to note that all noise is not the same, and the way noise travels through something isn't either. You can feel and hear noise from a subwoofer, you can hear but not feel ordinary conversation in a room next door. Methods to block noise through a ceiling can be adding something over your ceiling, or you may be required to remove your current ceiling and build a floated one to get any improvement.

Footstep Noise- Walking on a hard floor produces vibration, heard as noise. You can feel the vibration very clearly. You "hear" the noise upstairs and downstairs. Vibration (noise) transmits through all hard materials that are connected; hard floor, floor joist, hard ceiling below. Every layer is screwed together. No matter what you put in the airspace, or over your existing ceiling it will not reduce footstep noise. Vibration will go around the airspace through the joist and into the room below just as easily. You must remove your ceiling and build a floated one.

We have a very simple system that will break the hard connection between your floor and ceiling. This system will significantly reduce footstep noise and block low frequency and very loud noise too. Sound Isolation Clips are screwed to the bottom of your floor joist, a locally available metal channel snaps into the clips. There will be continuous rows of metal channel every 24" across the entire room. New drywall is screwed to the metal channel, not the floor joist, breaking the vibration path for footstep noise. There is no soundproofing product or method to reduce footstep noise better than isolation clips and metal channel. Our extensive testing proves this over and over.

It is critical that you not buy into the myth that more and/or better insulation will block footstep noise. There is no lab or field testing that supports this statement, when compared to the actual results you will get with sound isolation clips.

Airborne Noise- loud noise that can be heard from above or below is traveling through the air. It passes through the floor and ceiling because them for a couple of reasons; everything is too lightweight; the air cavity is not insulated or there are some penetrations that allow noise to pass through. For ordinary residential noise insulation used in the joist cavities can be very effective. When noises are louder such as music, video games, loud voices and more, blocking airborne noise requires far better soundproofing products than insulation.

Our Solutions; another layer of drywall over what's there with Soundproof Barrier between or Green Glue Damping Compound. These products will greatly reduce airborne noise to the rooms above or below. For very loud noise we recommend sound isolation clips- which will disconnect the ceiling from the structure. Floating your ceiling significantly reduces vibration transfer from above and below. Unless we disconnect the ceiling from the structure, very little improvement is possible.

We are ready to help with your soundproofing problems. We will ask the right questions to fully understand what is causing your noise problem, we will fully explain what is needed and why, then we get the right products to you quickly and provide support until the project is complete! Call for a consultation now 888-666-5090.

THE REST OF THE STORY

We will work with you or the installer to make sure we get a great result. There are some important details that need to be understood.

Soundproofing requires a system, not a single product. The little things matter very much. Noise is like water in a bucket; if you have a hole in the bucket the water will leak out. Therefore we stress the details that will insure success.

Can lights- recessed ceiling lights create holes in the ceiling. They are made of lightweight metal and cannot block sound the way heavy drywall can. Try to avoid recessed lights.

Ceiling and wall intersections- where the ceiling drywall and wall drywall meet we want to avoid a hard connection. This way vibration doesn't travel through non-isolated drywall into our floated ceiling. We have two options- perimeter gasket foam or acoustical sealant. Your salesperson will discuss these with you.

Stagger drywall seams- The sheets of drywall for two layers should not match up. With two layers we want the second layer seams running in opposite directions of the first layer seams.

Pipes or other things that penetrate the ceiling- cut the drywall very tight to these but not touching, and caulk so it's airtight.

Soffits 1- the very best solution is to complete the full flat ceiling first. Add blocking where needed, behind the drywall, to attach the soffit to the floated ceiling. Fill the cavity with good insulation. This way we have no noise concerns at all- just leave a small gap at wall and caulk the drywall.

Soffits 2- if the soffit is framed out to the structure we have to treat it the same way we are treating the ceiling. Fill the cavity with good insulation. We will use clips or multiple layers of drywall with Soundproof Barrier.