

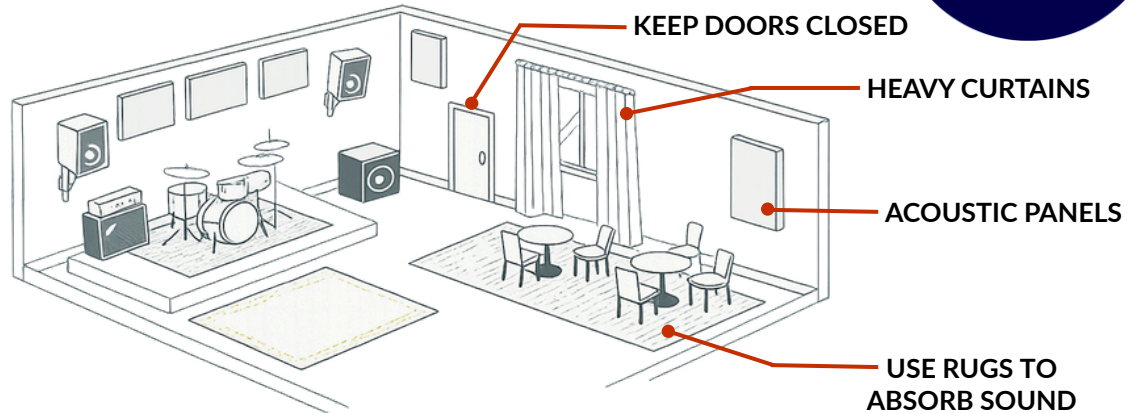
INDOOR SOUND MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST & GUIDELINES

Practical tips for venues, bars, restaurants, DJs, and entertainment operators.



Sound better, not louder.

Simple steps can help reduce noise impacts, improve guest experience, and support long-term business success.



Basic Sound Management Tips

1. Point speakers inward toward your audience, not toward doors, windows, or the street.
2. Keep doors and windows closed during amplified entertainment when possible.
3. Reduce excessive bass - low frequencies travel the farthest.
4. Conduct occasional outdoor sound checks and keep a decibel reading log.
5. Avoid placing subwoofers directly against shared walls, floors, or ceilings.
6. Be mindful of noise during load-in/load-out and closing hours.
7. Notify neighbors in advance of special events that may disrupt the community.
8. Regularly check common sound leak points including:
 - a. Doors
 - b. Windows
 - c. Patios
 - d. HVAC openings
 - e. Thin walls

Sound Management Shopping List

LOW COST IMPROVEMENTS

- ☐ Weather stripping for doors/windows
- ☐ Door sweeps
- ☐ Rugs or carpeting
- ☐ Thick curtains or moving blankets
- ☐ Acoustic caulk/sealant for gaps and cracks

HIGHER INVESTMENT OPTIONS

- ☐ Acoustic wall panels
- ☐ Bass traps
- ☐ Speaker mounts
- ☐ Directional speakers
- ☐ Soundproof doors/windows or double-door vestibule
- ☐ Acoustic ceiling baffles/clouds

EQUIPMENT & MONITORING

- ☐ Decibel meter or NIOSH Sound Level Meter App (free)
- ☐ Sound monitoring training for staff
- ☐ Rubber isolation pads (for beneath speakers)

Before you invest in sound management upgrades, make sure you identify where sound is escaping or where it is most problematic by testing levels inside and around your business. Consider consulting an acoustician for major projects.