Acoustic Solutions

Acoustic performance matters more than many people realise. Poor sound control can affect comfort, privacy, usability, and even the perceived quality of a building. Whether the project is residential, commercial, educational, or mixed-use, acoustic solutions should be considered early rather than thrown in at the last minute like a panicked snagging item.

There are two main types of sound that usually need to be controlled: airborne sound and impact sound. Airborne sound includes things like voices, music, or television noise travelling through walls and floors. Impact sound is created by contact, such as footsteps, dropped items, or moving furniture. Different acoustic solutions deal with different problems, so it is important to understand what the system is actually trying to improve.

Acoustic performance is usually achieved through a combination of mass, separation, resilience, and sealing. In simple terms, heavier materials can help block sound, isolated or separated structures can reduce transfer, resilient layers can absorb vibration, and proper sealing can stop sound leaking through gaps. That means acoustic performance is nearly always system-based. A single product rarely solves the problem on its own.

In floor systems, acoustic mats, resilient layers, floating floors, insulation layers, and ceiling treatments may all play a part. In wall systems, acoustic boards, insulation within cavities, staggered studs, resilient bars, and careful junction detailing can all improve performance. Ceilings may also include suspended systems or insulation to reduce transfer between levels.

When reviewing acoustic options, think about the actual use of the building.
Is privacy the main concern?
Is the issue footfall noise from above?
Is the solution for a conversion, a flat, a house extension, or a commercial space?
Are there Building Regulations or performance targets that need to be met?
Has the full build-up been considered, including junctions and weak points?

A good acoustic specification is not about chasing the biggest claim on a datasheet. It is about choosing the right system for the right noise problem and making sure it is installed properly.

Sound has a habit of finding the weak link.