

NetWell dB-Bloc Noise Barrier

The information presented here is courtesy of NetWell.

dB-Bloc is a thin mass-loaded vinyl sound barrier material designed to layer behind drywall and other finished wall or ceiling surfaces to help combat against the bleed of noise transmitting through a common surface. This sound-deadening material is designed as sound insulation for blocking noise transmitting through common walls. dB-Bloc measures just 1/8" thick, but weighs more than 1 pound per square foot to produce the density required for a soundproof wall. dB-Bloc will impair a wall's ability to vibrate to reduce sound transmission and has an STC rating of 26. The material is an ideal treatment for combating sound bleed in thin walls between neighbors or room isolation in any residential or commercial setting. This mass-loaded vinyl is shipped in 30' rolls measuring 54" in width. Each roll will cover 135 square feet and weigh nearly 150 pounds.

The standard treatment is to layer this material behind wall or ceiling surfaces to serve as a weighted membrane that will help the surface resonate less and combat the bleed of noise. Simply cut to fit the cavity size of your wall or ceiling using a straight edge and utility knife, and anchor mechanically to your surface using a staple gun, sheetrock screw, or other method. Do not use glue; this material is too heavy. Then apply your furring strips or resilient channels over the top of the material and your final layer of drywall. For added value, you could opt to layer dB-Bloc between two sheets of drywall and apply to your disconnected wall surface. Remember that anything you do to add and vary the densities, thicknesses, and dead-air gaps in your common-surface treatment, the better your results will be.



If you are applying this to a studded wall, follow the framing techniques outlined in the Walls section of NetWell's [Applications Guide](#) to create a disconnection in the assembly that will force the vibration to collapse structurally. For double wall or staggered studs, staple this material directly to the face of the studs and drywall over. For treating a finished surface, staple this material to the drywall, apply a set of horizontal furring strips or resilient channels, and add a new layer of drywall. For wall treatments, the furring strips should run horizontal up the wall. For ceiling treatments, anchor the strips perpendicular to the direction of the ceiling joists.

Cover 100% of the common surface with this material. Remember that if any area is left exposed, the noise will travel the path of least resistance and bleed out, partially decaying the overall transmission loss results. Overlap the seams of this material by 2" to help combat the bleed through the seams. ISO Clips are available for those opting for mechanical hat channels to create a partial disconnect, otherwise standard wooden or metal furring strips will work fine. If



you are treating a common wall made of concrete block, reverse the treatment and place the furring strips or channel system up first, then your dB-Bloc and your drywall. Remember that dB-Bloc is not designed to suspend by its own weight, and needs structure over the top of it to brace it in place.

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