

Acoustics Definitions



Noise Reduction Coefficient – This test measures the amount of sound energy absorbed by a product such as flooring, ceiling tiles, fabric or furniture. This test is relevant when considering in room acoustics. With this test we can start to see how two spaces with the same amount of sound energy may sound different from one another. How quickly the sound dissipates and how it reflects in the space will change how we perceive sound in the room.

This test is performed by directing sound at an object and measuring the amount of sound that reflects back or is absorbed. An NRC of 1 means that 100% of the sound energy is absorbed an NRC of 0 means that none of the sound is absorbed.

Soft surface flooring provides greater sound absorption with NRC results ranging from .15 to .7 depending on tufted weight, backing, and overall construction. Hard surface flooring generally have very low NRC results ranging from 0 to .10 depending on thickness and underlayment.

