

GOOD ACOUSTICS

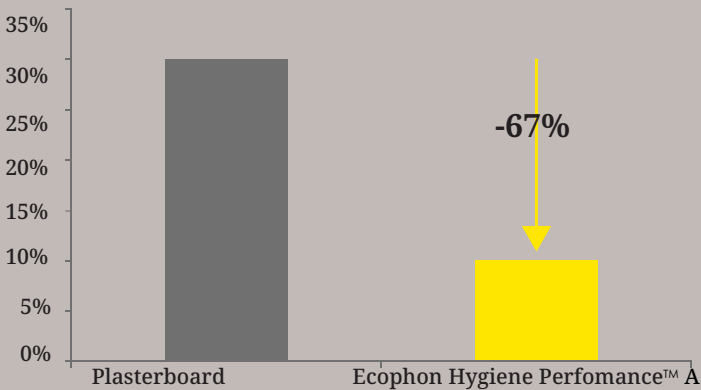
REDUCE THE NEED FOR EXTRA MEDICATION BY 67%



THE SICKEST SUFFER THE MOST

In a study of patients suffering from chest pain at an intensive coronary heart unit, researchers investigated the effects of good and bad sound environments. One of the most striking discoveries was in regards to medication intake. Nearly all the patients were prescribed peroral beta-blockers (normal heart medicine), with extra intravenous treatment given mostly when patients indicated that they were in pain. In the good sound environment:

- The need for extra medication was 67% lower



HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

Rest and sleep are important parts of our health and everyday life, but never as important as when we are ill and need to heal. The design of patient rooms should therefore enable privacy, comfort and good quality of sleep. Patients should not be exposed to sound and noise that can cause negative feelings such as anxiety and stress.

When a sound-absorbing ceiling was installed, sound levels went down 5-6dB, reverberation time dropped from 0.9 sec to 0.4 sec and the Speech Transmission Index (index for clarity of speech) improved from 0.64 to 0.86. All in all this meant a quieter and calmer environment. The human response is that we feel more relaxed and our pulse goes down. As it did for the patients in this study, and especially the sickest patients. With the effect that they experienced less need for extra medication.

ECOPHON SOLUTION

In healthcare facilities it is important that acoustic solutions meet the strictest hygiene demands in regards to cleaning and disinfection. Ecophon therefore provided Ecophon Hygiene Performance™ A for the good sound environment.

THE STUDY

At Huddinge University Hospital, Sweden, the physical environment in the intensive coronary heart unit was changed in two stages. First to provide poor acoustics for four weeks and then to provide good acoustics for four weeks. A total of 94 patients were included in the study.

Reference: Hagerman et al: "Influence of intensive coronary care acoustics on the quality of care and physiological state of patients", International Journal of Cardiology, Volume 98, Issue 2, February 2005





Ecophon is the leading supplier of indoor acoustic solutions that improve working performance and quality of life. We believe in the difference sound can make to our everyday lives, and are passionate advocates for the importance of room acoustics to people's wellbeing – whatever the space, activity or need.

Having a sound effect on people is the principle that guides all we do. We're proud of the Swedish heritage and human approach that promise is founded on. Our uncompromising commitment to transparent sustainable practice. And, as members of the Saint-Gobain Group, to be doing our part in making the world a better home.