

# Reverberation Time and Acoustic Comfort

Reverberation Time (RT) is the time required for the average sound pressure in a room to decrease 60 decibels after a source stops generating sound. This approximates to the time taken for a signal to decay to a level imperceptible to the human ear.

Excessive reverberation will manifest itself as an echo, poor audibility or raised sound pressure. At an extreme level, it will result in acoustic chaos – the ‘noisy restaurant’ or ‘Lombard Effect.’

Fortunately, RT is one of the best and most predictable measurements we have of acoustic quality and it is relatively simple to specify commercial interiors to achieve correct RT levels.

