

Diwali home improvements: How to keep noise pollution out on a budget

Sound advice to protect your home and loved ones, including young children and pets, from noise while you celebrate light.

MARIA LOUIS | OCTOBER 16, 2022 / 01:34 PM IST



Double-glazing unit windows offer sound and heat insulation. (Photo: Pentaspace Design Studio)

GAURAV SANGHAVI, CO-FOUNDER, PENTASPACE DESIGN STUDIO

"There are two ways of protecting yourself against sound pollution," maintains architect Gaurav Sanghavi, co-founder, Pentaspace Design Studio. "One is to have a better window section - so you have a doubly-glazed unit in your window, which will drastically take down the decibel levels. Another option is curtains, wherein you can get sound-absorbing curtains which are a quick-fix solution. The choice of fabric also plays a major role in doing the job well, and Sanghavi suggests velvet. "It is a thick cloth which can work for curtains and, with proper layering, the sound absorption becomes high. For traditional Indian houses, bamboo chiks can be used... they can be easily rolled."

Sanghavi considers curtains an easy and inexpensive way to soundproof your home quickly in an eco-friendly manner. "Windows are somewhat expensive, though they are a permanent solution," he says. "Meanwhile, curtains are a quick fix. They are the fastest way to soundproof your house. You select fabric made of soundproof material and have them stitched. For a residence, curtains can be used; for an office setting, blinds are more suitable; whereas for a traditional rustic home, bamboo chiks are the right choice."