

— What Are Noise Barriers, Decibels & Receivers? —

What Are Noise Barriers?

Noise Barriers are solid obstructions built between the highway and the homes along a highway. They do not completely block all noise, but they will reduce overall noise levels. Noise Barriers are usually constructed of formed concrete or fiberglass panels.



Noise Barrier Example

Effective Noise Barriers typically reduce noise levels by 5 to 10 decibels (dB), cutting the loudness of traffic noise by as much as one half. For example, a barrier which achieves a 10 dB reduction can reduce the sound level of a typical tractor trailer pass-by to that of an automobile.

What Are Decibels (dB)?

Decibels are the unit used to measure a sound's strength. They are based on a logarithmic scale, rather than a linear one. Zero decibels (0 dB) is the quietest sound audible to a healthy human ear. At 194 dB sound waves become shock waves, where an object is moving faster than sound.

What Are Noise Receivers (or Receptors)?

Noise Receivers refer to an individual site or location (such as a residence, school, church, etc.) registering measurable sound levels.