

Noise Barrier Process



Understanding Noise

Noise is described as “unwanted sound” and is measured on the decibel scale (dB). Sound is audible to humans between 0 and 140 dB and can damage hearing at 120 dB. A-weighted decibel (dBA) is the scale used to determine noise levels perceived by the human ear.

Levels of highway traffic noise typically range from 70 to 80 dBA for a receptor that is 50 feet away from the highway noise source. The volume and speed of traffic, along with the number of heavy-duty and freight trucks present, are factors in measuring noise level along a roadway. Distance from the roadway also affects the perceived noise level. As distance from the roadway doubles, the sound is reduced by 3 dBA.

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