



Highway Traffic Noise Barriers



Photo Source: Cynði Deswik, Wilson & Company



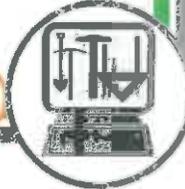
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Noise barriers are solid obstructions built between the highway and the homes along a highway. They do not completely block all noise they only reduce overall noise levels. Effective noise barriers typically reduce noise levels by 7 to 10 decibels, cutting the loudness of traffic noise by as much as one half.

Barriers can be formed (1) from earth mounds or “berms” along the road, (2) from high, vertical walls, or (3) from a combination of earth berms and walls. Earth berms have a natural appearance and are usually vegetated. However, earth berms can require a lot of land to construct, especially if they are very tall. Walls require less space, but they are usually limited to 20 feet in height for structural and aesthetic reasons.



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