

Project Profile



May 22, 2025

AIL Sound Walls control noise and keep neighbors McHappy along McDonald's drive-thru lane in Reading, MA

Drive-thru lanes at restaurants and coffeeshops are an integral part of modern living. However, unwanted noise from their communication systems, customers and vehicles are a common complaint to owners and municipalities. Lightweight and aesthetically pleasing systems from AIL Sound Walls are ideal for these narrow urban settings where proven sound mitigation is required.



Project at a glance:

Name: McDonald's Drive-Thru Location: Reading, MA Owner: McDonald's Corporation Engineer: Bohler Engineering Contractor: Marceau Construction Product: Silent Protector Plus (Absorptive) Sector: Commercial Application: Drive-Thru Dimensions: Length 120', Height 10' Installation Time: Four weeks



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For this McDonald's drive-thru in Reading, MA, a Silent Protector Plus (Absorptive) system from AIL Sound Walls was selected to control unwanted noise.

One of the industry's top-performing sound barriers

The Silent Protector Plus sound absorption wall panels are engineered for maximum noise reduction. Made from recycled and recyclable perforated PVC panels and filled with acoustical mineral wool and a sound-absorbing backer board, Silent Protector Plus is one of the industry's top-performing sound walls, with a Sound Transmission Class (STC) rating of 39 and a Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) of 0.95.

AIL Sound Walls snug up to existing fences and other structures

With their smaller foundations and modular construction, our lightweight PVC noise wall systems are known for their nimble versatility in fitting into narrow urban sites. In this case, AIL Sound Walls slipped into a very tight site behind an existing concrete retaining wall along the property line and snugged up to existing fences.

The construction timeline was very tight on the project as the contractor had to vacate the premises by a set date, so we had to ensure materials were delivered promptly to allow sufficient installation time.

We built a trusted partner relationship by meeting with the contractor on site, keeping the lines of communications open between engineering, sales, operations and the customer. It was a team effort among all the parties involved. Our project partners sent us pictures of the completed project and told us they were happy with its ease of installation and how good it looked.

Drive-thru lanes are a growing application focus for AIL Sound Walls with many installations to date for chains like McDonald's, Starbucks, Chick-fil-A, Wawa and Tim Hortons.

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