

Case Study

SilentCurtain Helps Major
San Diego Hotel's Management
Still Noise Complaints.

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It seems inevitable that, just when the party really starts rocking, somebody calls to complain about the noise and shuts down the fun. That's exactly what happened to a major hotel in downtown San Diego. Their newly remodeled fourth-floor outdoor concert/party/bar/pool area was drawing big crowds . . . and regular complaints from those living in nearby condos. Repeated visits from city workers armed with sound meters made it clear the hotel had to find a way to reduce the level of noise reaching the neighbors or face shutting down the party permanently.

Hotel management turned to the construction company responsible for building the outdoor facility for help in complying with the city's guidelines. The construction company, which didn't specialize in sound reduction work, began searching frantically for a sound-abatement solution that would complement the aesthetics of the space . . . and could also be ordered and installed quickly to avoid penalties or a shutdown order.

The solution the construction company's managers found was a Vinaflex™ mass-loaded vinyl product called SilentCurtain™, manufactured by one of GLT Products' subsidiaries. Di-anne Boduszek, the subsidiary's managing director, recalls, "We worked with them closely to determine the best product for the application. We started out just supplying the material needed to frame the stage area, where most of the sound came from, but the hotel continued to get complaints even after that was installed. To block even more sound, the construction company decided to wrap the two exposed sides of the outdoor area with four overlapping horizontal lengths of sound barrier, each four-and-a-half feet wide, to a height of about 16 feet. It's almost the size of a soccer field, so they needed a lot of material and they needed it right away."

Based on product availability and aesthetic considerations, the construction company eventually chose to use horizontal lengths of gray SilentCurtain. The product weighs one pound per square foot and is engineered specifically for outdoor use. The curtain offers an STC rating of 26 within the coverage area, blocking the passage of sound waves and transmission of airborne noise. High-strength polyester fabric reinforcement improves durability, tear resistance, and hanging strength dramatically, and it will not shrink, rot or cause metal corrosion. The SilentCurtain material also has built-in resistance to adverse environmental conditions and ultraviolet light. To offer the work crew greater installation flexibility, hanging grommets were attached on site and the curtains were installed using zip-ties for maximum speed.

In the end, the SilentCurtain allowed the construction company to meet the hotel's deadline, reduce the noise level dramatically, and keep the venue in operation, so it could continue providing a return on the owners' investment. And that made everybody, including the neighbors, very happy.