



Assignment:

Removal of 200,000 square feet of concrete from a 39-year-old open-air parkade in an eco-friendly way with no vibrations, no dust and minimal water usage. Learn how Conterra Restoration tackled a vast removal project with help from a suite of Aquajet equipment.



Parking garage restoration

HYDRODEMOLITION APPLICATION

JOB STATS

Location: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dates: Dec. 2019 – Spring 2022 (estimated)

Duration: 2 years

Material Removed: Estimated 200,000 square feet

Water Treated: Estimated 10 million gallons

Equipment: Aqua Cutter 710V, EcoClear, Ecosilence

Contractor challenged with noise limits

With decades of experience in new construction and commercial renovation, general contractor and construction manager Arguson Projects Inc. understood the logistical challenges posed by a multi-year, multi-million dollar parking garage renovation in Toronto's East End. The 39-year-old structure — an open-air parkade with a roof deck, two suspended slabs and asphalt on grade — needed to remain open while crews removed 200,000 square feet (18,581 square meters) of material from the second and third levels. Building tenants required parking to remain open, as well as continued access to the roof deck, which provided amenities for employees.

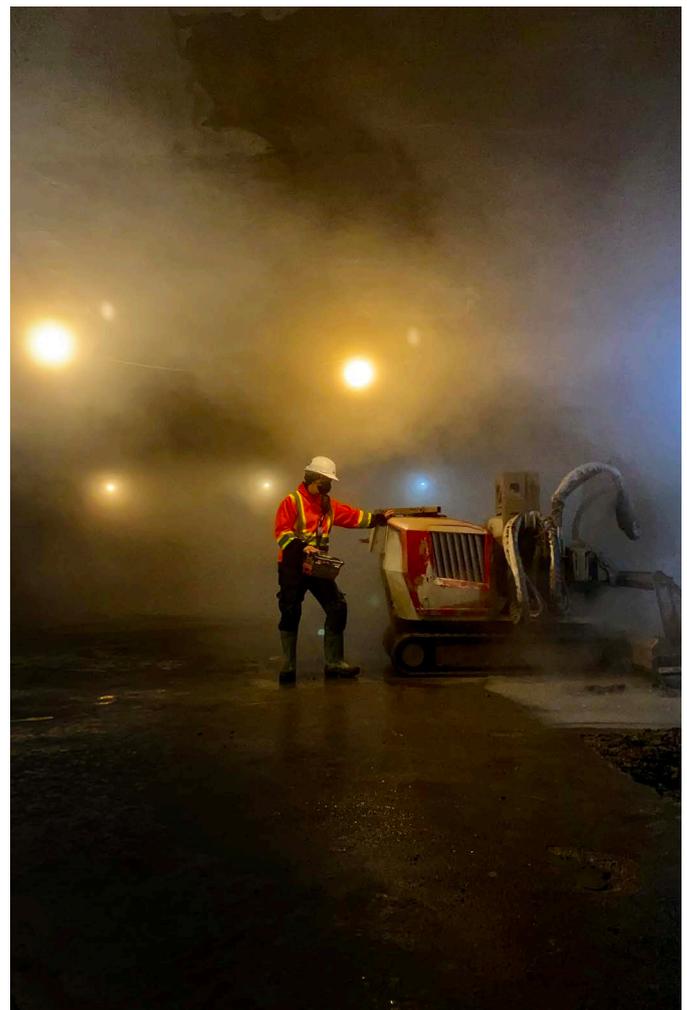
Seizing an opportunity to reduce not only the project's carbon footprint, but also the overall cost, Arguson, in conjunction with the property owner, turned to Conterra Restoration and a suite of Aquajet Hydrodemolition equipment for an eco-friendly solution.

Parking Problems

The suspended slabs within the parkade were heavily contaminated with chloride ions, or road salt, resulting in significant corrosion-related deterioration and cracking. The concrete needed significant repair/replacement to address structural integrity concerns and overall aesthetics of the suspended slabs. Working with RJC Engineers, a Canadian-based engineering firm specializing in parking facility design and restoration, Arguson determined Hydrodemolition was the only concrete removal option that fit the unique needs of the project.

Part of the building sits on the roof deck, meaning vibrations needed to be eliminated wherever possible. The building is also home to a prep school with athletic facilities located just south of the parking structure, requiring both noise and dust control to minimize disruptions to students and faculty. A nearby hotel also made nighttime noise an issue. The project managers needed a solution that would limit dust and other environmental impacts but was also quiet enough to proceed with the renovations during normal business hours.

"The main concerns for this project were noise and vibration generated by the construction activity, as well as the vast amount of concrete that needed to be removed to properly rehabilitate the suspended parking slabs," said Philip Sarvinis, P.Eng., Managing Principal with RJC Engineers. "Hydrode-



*During an 8-hour shift, Conterra sees removal rates of 600 to 1,000 square feet (55.7 to 92.9 square meters) with the Aqua Cutter 710V.
Photo credit: Just Porciello, Conterra Restoration Ltd.*



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Conterra Restoration and a suite of Aquajet Hydrodemolition equipment provided an eco-friendly solution during a multi-year, multi-million dollar parking garage renovation in Toronto's East End. Photo credit: Just Porciello, Conterra Restoration Ltd.

molition allowed the contractor to work through the day without disrupting building tenants or the neighboring properties, while at the same time removing large amounts of concrete. The process works extremely well with the added bonus that it doesn't physically damage the remaining concrete left in place compared to traditional jackhammering operations."

Arguson brought on Conterra Restoration, a Canadian-based contractor with extensive Hydrodemolition experience. The company presented Arguson with a cutting-edge solution that not only provided the productivity to meet deadlines, but also minimized impact on the tenants and environments. Conterra sourced an Aqua Cutter 710V — a Hydrodemolition robot which could provide 25 times more productivity than a large crew using conventional equipment — supplied by Cor-Blast Services Inc. The 5,181-pound (2,350-kilogram) Aqua Cutter 710V uses a 14,500- to 40,000-psi water jet, which removes concrete by widening existing pores and micro cracks in the weakened structure. Since the process is impact-free, there are no vibrations, and therefore less risk of microfractures. Hydrodemolition also cleans and descales rebar without damaging it.

The plan also featured an Aquajet 700 Ecosilence high-pressure pump, which is quieter than other high-pressure pump systems, while still providing ample power for the project — 56 gpm (212 lpm) at 18,700 psi (1,290 bar). This would keep noise to a minimum, allowing crews to work during the day without disturbing tenants.

"With the Ecosilence, the pump and diesel engine are inside a container

with this machine, which dampens the sound enough you could run it under a window downtown and still be quieter than normal traffic," said David Porciello, general manager for Conterra. "We paired a hoarding system with the Ecosilence to get down to 63dB at a range of 6 meters."

Additionally, the Ecosilence allowed Conterra to work throughout the year, even when temperatures hit -4 Fahrenheit (-20 Celsius).

The contractor also included an EcoClear water treatment system as part of their tender. This unit provides on-site water treatment in real time for less than a penny per gallon. After passing through the EcoClear, wastewater can be released into the sanitary sewer system. With the project requiring in excess of 10 million gallons of water, this presented significant cost and carbon savings compared to alternatives, such as trucking the wastewater out with vacuum trucks.

"Environmental stewardship has always been an important part of the conversation for us," Porciello said. "With the Aquajet equipment we saw an opportunity to not only provide fast, high-quality results, we could also drastically reduce our impact on the environment. From eliminating the gas and exhaust of vac trucks to minimizing crews — and the associated emissions getting them to and from the worksite — we were able to present not only an economic solution, but an eco-friendly one as well."

The company's unique full-service approach to building restoration also gave them an advantage in the bidding process. In addition to Hydrodemo-



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The project managers determined Hydrodemolition was quiet enough to proceed with renovations during normal business hours, as well as limited dust and other environmental impacts. Photo credit: Just Porciello, Conterra Restoration Ltd.

lition, Conterra bid subsequent phases of the project — including pouring new concrete, applying a waterproofing system and painting lines. Additionally, decades of experience, highly skilled crews, specialist subtrades, plus an outstanding record for satisfactory and on-time delivery made their bid stand out.

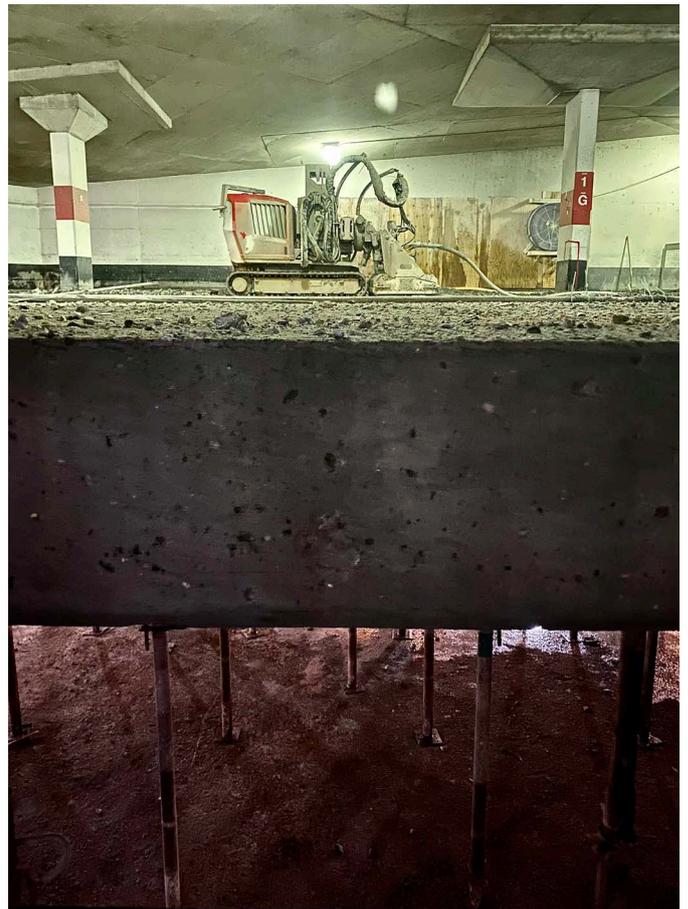
Record Removal

The project was broken into two phases over two years, commencing in December 2019. Conterra set up a staging area outside the parkade for the Ecosilence and EcoClear. Depending on the day, the Aqua Cutter robot could be up to 615 feet (187 meters) away and several stories above the pump system.

Arguson and Conterra have a dedicated crew of workers and subcontractors on-site with a small contingent running the Aqua Cutter and support equipment. The Hydrodemolition removal process is monitored by one operator/technician with some assistance monitoring the EcoClear. Additionally, a team follows up behind the robot to remove the demolished concrete. Other crews are employed removing through-slabs, forming and other tasks throughout the site. For the most part, the robot removes concrete to a depth of 4 to 5 inches (10 to 13 centimeters).

“The Aqua Cutter finds what most engineers can’t — every millimeter of bad concrete,” Porciello said. “The robot can be programmed to remove a certain depth; however, the removal could be deeper in certain areas if the strength of existing concrete is not adequate. This assures that all deteriorated concrete is removed and a sound substrate remains for superior bonding of the new concrete overlay. This gives us a clean slate of good concrete for stronger, longer-lasting repairs.”

During an 8-hour shift, Conterra sees removal rates of 600 to 1,000 square feet (55.7 to 92.9 square meters). Had they opted for manual removal, Por-



The 5,181-pound (2,350-kilogram) Aqua Cutter 710V uses a 14,500- to 40,000-psi water jet. The robot's high-pressure water jet removes concrete by widening existing pores and micro cracks in the weakened structure. Photo credit: Just Porciello, Conterra Restoration Ltd.



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ciello estimates it would take a crew of 20 — averaging 30 square feet (2.8 square meters) per person per day — to achieve the same productivity for removal only. Plus, the project would have been limited to overnight shifts to avoid noise disruptions for the building’s tenants.

Working with Water

To minimize disturbances and maneuvering equipment around the jobsite, Conterra works on a designated section of the first suspended slab and continues down to ground level. This also allows the team to take advantage of gravity in its wastewater collection plan. Water is routed through existing drains and a system of clear stone filtration to a catch pit near the staging site. From there, it is pumped through the EcoClear — which can process as much as 5,283 gallons (20 cubic meters) per hour — on its way to the sewer.

“The EcoClear system gave us a distinct advantage for this project,” Porciello said. “We’re the only group in Ontario with equipment that can provide documented, quantifiable results on-site and on-demand. With these amounts of water, we didn’t even consider alternative treatment methods. The carbon cost was just too great.”

With the EcoClear, Conterra can reduce blast water pH from 12.5 to between 7.5 and 8.5. The system uses carbon dioxide rather than mineral acid to reduce pH. This eliminates the risk of acidifying the water and requires less in the way of oversight, training and PPE. The EcoClear also reduces suspended solids to 50ppm or less.

“We’ve gotten as low as 15 ppm,” said Porciello. “And we know the equipment is capable of meeting storm drain requirements. Now that we’re a year in, we’re more comfortable with the process and have plans to incorporate a closed-loop system that will make the process even more efficient and eco-friendly.”

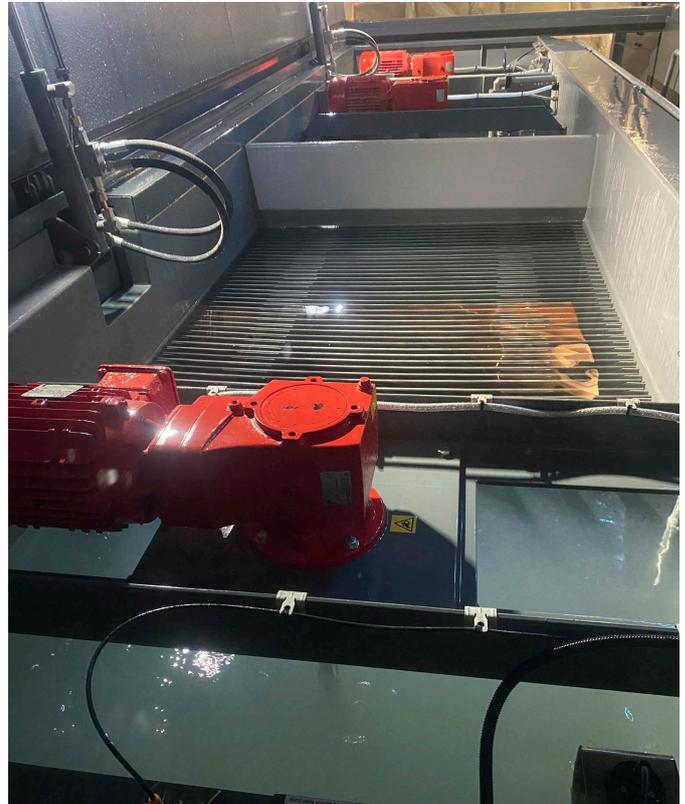
With a closed-loop system, blast water is treated in the EcoClear. Then the clean water is reused in the Ecosilence. Conterra plans to begin running this setup in the near future. A small percentage of the water is lost to evaporation, but Conterra estimates the process can collect, treat and recirculate up to 75% of the water used by the Hydrodemolition robots. Depending on application, some contractors have seen recapture rates up to 90%.

Powering Through

Like many projects during the global pandemic, the parkade restoration’s timelines have suffered. Conterra lost 13 weeks due to COVID. Thankfully the work ethic of the dedicated project team and the productivity of the Aquajet equipment has minimized the shutdown’s impact. Final completion is now scheduled for late spring 2022.

The use of robotic Hydrodemolition equipment also makes it easier to enact social distancing protocols going forward. While this isn’t a benefit Conterra looked for when drawing up their bid, it has certainly allowed them to keep moving forward while other jobsites had to reorganize.

“Hydrodemolition put us on the cutting edge of industry trends,” Porciello said. “No one saw a global pandemic coming, but with Hydrodemolition robots, we’ve been able to adapt quickly. This speaks to how manufacturers like Aquajet listen to their customers and plan for the future of construction. From eco-friendly solutions to eliminating silica dust to reducing health risks like white fingers and hearing loss, smart equipment developments keep us ahead of the curve.”



With the EcoClear, Conterra can reduce blast water pH from 12.5 to between 7.5 and 8.5 and suspended solids to 50ppm or less.
Photo credit: Just Porciello, Conterra Restoration Ltd.



Conterra set up a staging area outside the parkade for the Ecosilence and EcoClear. Depending on the day, the Aqua Cutter robot could be up to 615 feet (187 meters) away and several stories above the pump system.
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EQUIPMENT USED

Aqua Cutter 710V evolution 2.0

The AQUA CUTTER 710V is the most versatile robot on the Hydrodemolition market, suitable for all kinds of operations. Our innovative design gives the operator freedom to reach all horizontal, vertical and overhead areas up to 7 meters (23 ft) without support. In other words, where most robots fail, the 710V will prevail.



Total weight	2350 kg (5181 lb)	Side reach	2 m (6,6 ft)
Length	2,57-2,82 m (8,4-9,2 ft)	Lance angle	± 45°
Min. width	1,03 m (3,4 ft)	Working width	0-2,45 m (0-8,0 ft)
Track width	1,03-1,63 m (3,4-5,4 ft)	Working width extended	0-4,45 m (0-14,6 ft)
Min. height	1,3/1,6 m (4,2/5,2 ft)	Drive source	Diesel engine, 18kW / 1600-2600 rpm (electric optional)
Operating height	7 m (23 ft)		

Ecosilence 700

The Ecosilence 3.0 has evolved from customer feedback over the years to meet both noise, efficiency and environmental requirements that contractors face today. It's not only quieter and easier to operate, it also has the latest technology all over – making it more effective and fuel efficient than ever, with the lowest emissions. Capable of handling up to 3000 bar/40000 PSI and almost any flow and with total enclosure for harsh environments, the Ecosilence 3.0 is all you need in one super compact package.



Pressure	1040-2550 bar (15080-36984 psi)	Length	6,058 m (ISO 20')
Flow	100-262 l/min (26-69 US gal/min)	Width	2,438 m (ISO 8')
Reaction force	1179-1972 N	Height	2,591 m (ISO 8,5')
Engine	700 hp (515 kW)	Approx. weight	10000 kg (22000 lbs)
Tank volume	980 l (259 US gal)		

Ecoclear 20 2.0

Aquajet's EcoClear water treatment system solves the problem of what to do with water used in the Hydrodemolition process. Treated water can be discharged into the environment or recirculated back to the high-pressure pump and the robot, eliminating the need for a constant fresh water source or a third-party contractor to collect and remove water.

The EcoClear is designed to work perfectly with our entire range of Aqua Cutter robots. It's capable of handling an impressive flow rate up to 20 m³/hour (706 ft³/hour). With EcoClear you can neutralize elevated alkaline pH levels down to pH 6-9 while you have full control of the turbidity level down to 20-40 mg particles per liter. But that's not all. You can do all this without any kind of filters or an extra water reservoir. Perfect for your operation, amazing for the environment.



Capacity	20 m ³ /h (706 ft ³ /h)	Length (L1)	6,058 m (ISO 20')
pH outgoing water	6-9 pH	Width (W1)	2,438 m (ISO 8')
Turbidity outgoing water	20-40 mg/l	Height (H1)	2,591 m (ISO 8,5')
pH adjusters	Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	Approx. dry weight	8900 kg (19 621 lb)
Neat coagulation fluid	10-30 g/m ³ (0,01-0,03 oz/ft ³)	Approx gross weight	19 900 kg (43 871 lb)
Neat flocculation fluid	1,5 -3,0 g/m ³ (0,0015-0,003 oz/ft ³)	Process tank volume	12 m ³ (3 170 US gal)
Carbon Dioxide CO₂	0,2-0,6 kg/m ³ (0,2-0,6 oz/ft ³)	Drive source	Electric 3-phase, 15kW 400VAC 25A (Other on request)

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