

Decibel Level Limit Survey of Other Major U.S. Cities
(Information derived from each city's municipal code of ordinances.)

Alexandria, VA- The Code of the City of Alexandria Section 11-5-5(2)(c) states, "The measurements shall be made at the boundary of the property on which such noise is generated..." Residential maximum permissible sound level is 55 dBA. Commercial maximum permissible sound level is 60 dBA.

Atlanta- sound level measured "at or within property line of the impacted site" or "no less than 25 feet from edge of a noise source."

If ambient cannot be determined, the following absolute sound level limits are used:

Residential 55- daytime; 50 nighttime

Commercial 70 day; 65 night

Industrial 75 day; 70 night

Austin, TX- Max sound produced by a business may not exceed 85 dBA between 10am-2am at the property line of the business. Sound is prohibited from being audible at the property line of the business between 2am-10am.

Boston- Max is "50 dBA between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., or in excess of 70 dBA at all other hours."

Chicago- Limit is 55 dBA when measured from within any dwelling unit and between the hours of 10pm-8am sound that is louder than conversational level at a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of the property generating the sound.

Dallas- The max on a residential bounding lot line is 56 dBA. The max on commercial bounding lot line is 63 dBA.

Houston-any sound "discernable" beyond the property lines of the property generating the sound shall not exceed (on residential property) 65 dBA during daytime; 58 dBA during nighttime. For nonresidential property the max is 68 dBA at all times.

Los Angeles- Residential is 50 dBA during the day (7am-10pm) and 40 dBA at night (10:00 pm-7:00am). Commercial is 60 dBA during the day and 55 dBA at night. Measurement is taken at the property line.

Memphis – The code of ordinances does not contain a decibel level limit. "The creating of any unreasonably loud, disturbing and unnecessary noise within the limits of the city is prohibited. Any noise of such character, intensity or duration as to be detrimental to the life or health of any individual, or in disturbance of the public peace and welfare is prohibited."

"The use of any drum, loudspeaker or other instrument or device for the purpose of attracting attention, by creation of noise, to any performance, show or sale or display of merchandise is prohibited.

Nashville- All land uses except for industrial and agricultural are limited at 65dBA from 7am to 7pm and 60 dBA from 7pm to 7am. Industrial and agricultural uses are limited at 75 dBA. Measurement is determined at the property line of the closest use.

New York City- Max is 42 dBA inside any receiving property dwelling unit.

The following are measure at any point within a receiving property or at a distance of 15 feet or more from the source on a public right-of-way.

10pm-7am- limit is 7 dBA above ambient sound level which “may be determined based upon measurements taken at a comparable site (which includes but is not limited to comparable physical locations and time of day) in the nearby area.”

7am -10pm- limit is 10 dBA above ambient sound level.

St. Louis, MO- In residential districts from 7am – 10pm the max is 55 dBA (for a 60 minute period.) From 10pm – 7am the max is 50 dBA (for 60 minutes.) In neighborhood commercial from 7am -10pm the max is 65 dBA (60 minutes) and 60 dBA (60 minutes) from 10pm-7am. In commercial and business districts the max is 70 dBA (60 minutes.)

San Antonio- The max is 63 dBA measured on adjacent residential property that is under separate ownership from noise source property.

The max is 70 dBA measured on adjacent business zoned property that is under separate ownership from noise source property.

For entertainment zoned property the max is 85 dBA measured on adjacent entertainment zoned property that is under separate ownership from noise source property.

San Diego- For residential the maximum decibel level varies from the 40 dBA from 10pm to 7am to 50 dBA depending on the type of residential district and the time. For commercial zoning it is 65 dBA from 7am to 7 pm and 60 dBA from 7pm to 7am.

San Francisco- For residentially zoned properties the max varies from 50 dBA to 60dBA. For commercially zoned properties the max is 60 dBA for nighttime and 70 dBA for daytime.

Savannah, GA- “The measurement shall be made as close to the property line of the receiving land use as is practical.” Residential from 7am-7pm is 60 dBA and from 7pm-7am is 50 dBA. In business the max is 65 dBA at all times. Industrial is 75 dBA at all times. Noise-sensitive zones are 55 dBA at all times.

Seattle, WA- The measurement is on the receiving property and the limitation depends on the zoning of the receiving property. If the sound source is zoned residential and the receiving property is residential the limit is 55 dBA, but at night the limit is 45 dBA*. If the sound source is commercial and the receiving property is residential the limit is 57 dBA from 7am-10pm on weekdays and 9am-10pm on weekends and 47 dBA from 10pm-7am on weekdays and 10pm- 9am on weekends. For all land use categories the maximum is 70 dBA for an industrially zoned source received by an industrially zoned receiving property.

*In residential districts the permissible levels are reduced by 10 dBA during 10pm-7am on weekdays and 10pm- 9am on weekends.

Tampa- In the CBD, the Ybor City Historic District, and the Channel District which are entertainment zones measurement is taken from the property line or individual lease boundary of the noise generating property. The max level is 85 dBA from 6pm-3am and 65 dBA from 3am-6pm.

In all other areas the measurement is taken from a receiving property at the property line closest to the noise generating property. The max level is 60 dBA from 7am-10pm and 55 dBA from 10pm-7am.