

Table 2. Typical Noise Levels

Source	dBA
Grand Canyon at Night (no roads, birds, or wind)	10
Computer	37-45
Refrigerator	40-43
Typical Living Room	40
Background Music	50
Microwave	55-59
Normal Conversation	55-65
Alarm Clock	60-80
Dishwasher	63-66
Clothes Washer	65-70
Phone	66-75
Inside Car, Windows Closed, 30 MPH	68-73
Inside Car, Windows Open, 30 MPH	72-76
Vacuum Cleaner	84-89
Lawn Mower	88-94
Air Compressor	90-93
1/4" Drill	92-95
Circular Saw	100-104
Maximum Output of Stereo	100-110

Noise in Anchorage



Complying with the Anchorage Noise Ordinance



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Noise In Anchorage

Cities are noisy places to live, and Anchorage is no exception. Road construction, public events, transportation and community gatherings are all necessary or desired events that generate noise. The Anchorage Noise Ordinance, AMC 15.70, regulates noise events and unnecessary or annoying noise sources.

Allowable noise levels are different for different land uses. For example, a residential property has a much lower allowable noise level than an industrial property. Table 1 shows the allowable noise levels in A-scale decibels (dB(A)) for different land uses in Anchorage.

Table 1. Allowable Noise Levels

Affected Property	Time	Sound Level dB(A)
Residential	7:00 AM--10:00 PM 10:00 PM-- 7:00 AM	60 50
Commercial	7:00 AM--10:00 PM 10:00 PM-- 7:00 AM	70 60
Industrial	At all times	80

Sometimes the ambient sound level in an area may be above the allowable noise limit shown on Table 1. In this case, a noise source in question that is more than 3 dB(A) above the ambient noise in a given area may be in violation of the Anchorage Noise Ordinance. Ambient sound (sometimes called background sound) is the constant sound in a given neighborhood. This may include traffic noise, the hum of a power line or even a babbling brook.

Noise Permits

Certain activities are eligible for noise permits. A noise permit can allow a temporary increase in allowable noise levels or allow an event to occur at a time that it normally would not be allowed.

Only certain events are eligible for noise permits. Those events are:

- Construction
- Explosives
- Public events
- Snow removal
- Motor vehicle racing events



Applying for a Noise Permit

If you are responsible for an event that is eligible for a permit and will generate noise, you may need a noise permit. If you expect that your event will produce a sound level above those shown in Table 1, you will need a noise permit.

Table 2 provides some typical noise levels to help you compare and determine whether you need a permit. If you are unsure whether you need or are eligible for a noise permit, contact the Environmental Services Division by calling (907) 343-4200.

Hardships created by either issuing or not issuing the noise permit are considered during the application process. It may be determined that a permit cannot be issued or one may be issued with special conditions.

Permit Conditions

A noise permit will state the conditions that the event must comply with in order for the permit to remain valid. Typically these conditions will include a time frame, the allowable sound level, and acts that may invalidate the permit.