

## HOW LOUD IS LOUD?

### *Common Noise Levels and Typical Reactions*

Activity	Noise Level [dB(A)]	Apparent Loudness	Typical Physical Response
Rocket launching	180		<b>Danger level</b>
<b>Threshold of pain</b> Gunshot Jet engine taking off	140		<b>Danger level</b>
Military jet Air raid siren Shotgun Hydraulic press (3 m away)	130	512 times as loud	Limited ability to hear amplified speech. Noise may cause pain.  Can damage hearing after 3.75 minutes exposure per day
Car horn Propeller aircraft Air-raid siren	120	256 times as loud	Can damage hearing <b>after</b> 7.5 minutes exposure per day
Sand-blasting Squealing pigs Inboard motorboat Typical night club Unsilenced motorcycle (7m away)	110	Over 128 times as loud!!	Maximum vocal effort.  <b>Can damage hearing after 30 minutes exposure per day</b>
Amplified Rock Music	<b>110-130</b>	Over 128 to 512 times as loud!!	<b>Can damage hearing</b> after 3.75 – 30 minutes exposure per day
Helicopter Motorised/power mower	105		Can damage hearing after 1 hour exposure per day
Jet takeoff @ 500m Train horn @ 30m Diesel truck Pneumatic drill/jackhammer	100	64 times as loud	Can damage hearing after 2 hours exposure per day
Heavy truck @ 15m Busy city street passing motorcycle Lawn mower Loud shout Screaming child	90	32 times as loud	Very annoying.  Can damage hearing after 8 hours exposure per day

Average factory Electric shaver	85		
Busy traffic intersection Motorway construction site Outboard motor Alarm clock (with bell) Freight train (15m away)	80	16 times as loud	Annoying .
Motorway traffic @ 15m Roadside traffic Train horn @ 500m Vacuum cleaner Mixer electric sewing machine Noisy restaurant Conversation in a loud voice	70	8 times as loud	Telephone use difficult.
Washing machine/dishwasher	65		
Light car traffic @ 15m City or commercial areas Noisy office Normal conversation Clothes dryer Background music	60	4 times as loud	Intrusive.
Quiet office	50	2 times as loud	Speech interference.
Refrigerator	45		
<b>Quiet residential area Kitchen/bathroom Public library</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>Arbitrary Base Reference Level</b>	<b>Quiet .</b>
Leaves rustling Very soft music Recording studio Living/dining/bedroom	30	1/2 as loud	Very quiet.
Threshold of sound perception	10	1/8 as loud	Just audible.
Threshold of hearing	0	N/A	Not audible.