

Noise Levels dBA / Decibels

At Home

dBA - Item

50 - refrigerator
50 60 - electric toothbrush
50 75 - washing machine
50 75 - air conditioner
50 80 - electric shaver
55 - coffee percolator
55 70 - dishwasher
60 - sewing machine
60 85 - vacuum cleaner
60 95 - hair dryer
65 80 - alarm clock
70 - TV audio
70 - 80 coffee grinder
70 - 95 garbage disposal
75 - 85 flush toilet
80 - popup toaster
80 - doorbell
80 - ringing telephone
80 - whistling kettle
80 90 - food mixer or processor
80 90 - blender
80 95 - garbage disposal
110 - baby crying
110 - squeaky toy held close to the ear
135 - noisy squeeze toys

AT Work

dBA - Item

40 - quiet office, library
50 - large office
65 95 - power lawn mower
80 - manual machine, tools
85 - handsaw
90 - tractor
90 115 - subway
95 - electric drill
100 - factory machinery
100 - woodworking class
105 - snow blower
110 - power saw
110 - leafblower
120 - chain saw, hammer on nail
120 - pneumatic drills, heavy machine
120 - jet plane (at ramp)
120 - ambulance siren
125 - chain saw
130 - jackhammer, power drill
130 - air raid
130 - percussion section at symphony
140 - aeroplane taking off
150 - jet engine taking off
150 - artillery fire at 500 feet
180 - rocket launching from pad

Recreation

dBA - Item

40 - quiet residential area
70 - freeway traffic
85 - heavy traffic, noisy restaurant
90 - truck, shouted conversation
95 110 - motorcycle
100 - snowmobile
100 - school dance, boom box
110 - disco
110 - busy video arcade
110 - symphony concert
110 - car horn
110 -120 - rock concert
112 - personal cassette player on high
117 - football game (stadium)
120 - band concert
125 - auto stereo (factory installed)
130 - stock car races
143 - bicycle horn
150 - firecracker
156 - cap gun
157 - balloon pop
162 - fireworks (at 3 feet)
163 - rifle
166 - handgun
170 - shotgun

Points of Reference

***measured in dBA or decibels**

0 - The softest sound a person can hear with normal hearing
10 - Normal breathing
20 - Whispering at 5 feet
30 - Soft whisper
50 - Rainfall
60 - Normal conversation
110 - Shouting in ear
120 - Thunder