

# Common Sounds

This decibel (dB) table compares some common sounds and shows how they rank in potential harm to hearing.

Sound	Noise Level (dB)	Effect
Boom Cars	145	Threshold of pain begins around 125 dB
Jet Engines (near)	140	
Shotgun Firing	130	
Jet Takeoff (100–200 ft.)	130	
Rock Concerts (varies)	110–140	
Oxygen Torch	121	Threshold of sensation begins around 120 dB
Discotheque/Boom Box	120	
Thunderclap (near)	120	
Stereos (over 100 watts)	110–125	
Symphony Orchestra	110	
Power Saw (chainsaw)	110	Regular exposure to sound over 100 dB of more than one minute risks permanent hearing loss
Pneumatic Drill/Jackhammer	110	
Snowmobile	105	
Jet Flyover (1000 ft.)	103	
Electric Furnace Area	100	
Garbage Truck/Cement Mixer	100	
Farm Tractor	98	
Newspaper Press	97	
Subway, Motorcycle (25 ft.)	88	
Lawnmower, Food Blender	85–90	85 dB is the level at which hearing damage (8 hrs.) begins
Recreational Vehicles, TV	70–90	
Diesel Truck (40 mph, 50 ft.)	84	
Average City Traffic	80	
Garbage Disposal	80	
Washing Machine	78	Annoying; interferes with conversation; constant exposure may cause damage
Dishwasher	75	
Vacuum Cleaner, Hair Dryer	70	
Normal Conversation	50–65	
Quiet Office	50–60	
Refrigerator Humming	40	Very quiet
Whisper	30	
Broadcasting Studio	30	
Rustling Leaves	20	Just audible
Normal Breathing	10	
		The threshold of normal hearing starts at about 1000 to 4000kHz.