

Sound Effect Decibel Levels

Sound	Type	Decibels (dBA)	Context	Damage
Softest sound possible (at 1 kHz)		0		
Rustling leaves	Specific	10	Barely audible	
Normal breathing	Specific	10		
Pin dropping	Specific	10		
Broadcasting studio	Ambience	20		
Whispering at 5 feet	Specific	20		
Soft whisper	Specific	30	Very quiet	
Very calm room	Ambience	30		
Quiet office or library	Ambience	40		
Quiet residential area	Ambience	40		
Babbling brook	Specific	40		
Computer	Specific	40		
Moderate rainfall	Ambience	50	Quiet	
Refrigerator	Specific	50		
Large office	Ambience	50		
Light traffic	Ambience	50		
Electric toothbrush	Specific	55		
Coffee percolator	Specific	55		
Normal conversation	Specific	60	Intrusive	
Sewing machine	Specific	60		
Television	Specific	60		
Washing machine	Specific	63		
Air conditioner	Specific	63		
Dishwasher	Specific	63		
Electric shaver	Specific	65		
Passenger car	Specific	70	Difficulty hearing speech	EPA maximum before needing protection
Shower	Specific	70		
Vacuum cleaner	Specific	73		
Alarm clock	Specific	73		
Coffee grinder	Specific	75		
Hair dryer	Specific	78		
Power lawn mower	Specific	80	Irritating	
Toilet flush	Specific	80		
Pop - up toaster	Specific	80		
Doorbell	Specific	80		
Telephone ringing	Specific	80		
Whistling kettle	Specific	80		
Food mixer or food processor	Specific	85		Damage occurs after 8 hours
Blender	Specific	85		
Hand saw	Specific	85		
Heavy traffic	Ambience	85		
Noisy restaurant	Ambience	85		
Garbage disposal	Specific	88		
Tractor	Specific	90	Very irritating	
Truck	Specific	90		
Electric drill	Specific	95		
Factory machinery	Specific	100	Very loud	
Snowmobile	Specific	100		
Motorcycle	Specific	100		
Jackhammer	Specific	100		
Subway	Specific	103		
Snow blower	Specific	105		
Baby crying	Specific	110	Extremely loud	
Power saw	Specific	110		
Leaf blower	Specific	110		
Busy video arcade	Ambience	110		
Car horn	Specific	110		
Shouting in ear	Specific	111		
Football game (stadium)	Ambience	117		
Thunder	Specific	120	Painfully loud	Immediate damage
Chainsaw	Specific	120		
Hammer hitting nail	Specific	120		
Jet taking off (60 metres)	Specific	120		
Ambulance siren	Specific	120		
Air raid siren	Specific	130		Threshold of pain
Stock car race	Ambience	130		
Loudest possible voice	Specific	135		
Airplane taking off	Specific	140		
Bicycle horn	Specific	143		
Jet taking off	Specific	150		
Artillery fire (500 feet)	Specific	150		
Fireworks	Specific	150		
Jet engine	Specific	150		
Capgun	Specific	156		
Balloon pop	Specific	157		
Fireworks	Specific	162		
Rifle	Specific	163		
.357 revolver	Specific	165		
Handgun	Specific	166		
Shotgun	Specific	170		
30-06 rifle being fired	Specific	171		
Howitzer canon	Specific	175		
Rocket launching (at pad)	Specific	180		Irreversible hearing damage
Sound waves become shock waves		191		