

## 2105 OSHA Decibel (Loudness) Comparison Chart

Here are some interesting numbers, collected from a variety of sources, that help one to understand the volume levels of various sources and how they can affect our hearing.

Environmental Noise	
Weakest sound heard	0dB
Whisper Quiet Library at 6'	30dB
Normal conversation at 3'	60-65dB
Telephone dial tone	80dB
City Traffic (inside car)	85dB
Train whistle at 500', Truck Traffic	90dB
Jackhammer at 50'	95dB
Subway train at 200'	95dB
<i>Level at which sustained exposure may result in hearing loss</i>	<i>90 - 95dB</i>
Hand Drill	98dB
Power mower at 3'	107dB
Snowmobile, Motorcycle	100dB
Power saw at 3'	110dB
Sandblasting, Loud Rock Concert	115dB
<i>Pain begins</i>	<i>125dB</i>
Pneumatic riveter at 4'	125dB
<i>Even short term exposure can cause permanent damage - Loudest recommended exposure <u>WITH</u> hearing protection</i>	<i>140dB</i>
Jet engine at 100'	140dB
12 Gauge Shotgun Blast	165dB
Death of hearing tissue	180dB
Loudest sound possible	194dB

<b>OSHA Daily Permissible Noise Level Exposure</b>	
Hours per day	Sound level
8	90dB
6	92dB
4	95dB
3	97dB
2	100dB
1.5	102dB
1	105dB
.5	110dB
.25 or less	115dB

<b>NIOSH Daily Permissible Noise Level Exposure</b>	
Hours per day	Sound level
8	85dBA
6	86dBA
4	88dBA
3	89dBA
2	90dBA
1.5	92dBA
1	94dBA
.5	97dBA
.25 or less	100dBA
0	112dBA

<b>Perceptions of Increases in Decibel Level</b>	
Imperceptible Change	1dB
Barely Perceptible Change	3dB
Clearly Noticeable Change	5dB
About Twice as Loud	10dB
About Four Times as Loud	20dB