



TABLE 12.1 Decibel Levels of Common Environmental Sounds

Noise levels are measured in decibels (dB). The higher the decibel level, the louder the noise. Sounds louder than 80 dB are considered potentially hazardous. The noise chart below gives an idea of average decibel levels for everyday sounds around you.

Human Perception	Decibel Level
Painful	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 150 dB = rock music peak• 140 dB = firearms, air raid siren, jet engine• 130 dB = jackhammer• 120 dB = jet plane takeoff, amplified rock music at 4–6 feet, car stereo, band practice
Extremely Loud	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 110 dB = rock music, model airplane• 106 dB = timpani and bass drum rolls• 100 dB = snowmobile, chain saw, pneumatic drill• 90 dB = lawnmower, shop tools, truck traffic, subway
Very Loud	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80 dB = alarm clock, busy street• 70 dB = busy traffic, vacuum cleaner• 60 dB = conversation, dishwasher
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 50 dB = moderate rainfall• 40 dB = quiet room
Faint	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30 dB = whisper, quiet library