### Typical Noise Levels for Various Occupations

**Automotive (dBA)**
- Auto Body Technician: 90
- Detailer: 97
- Mechanic: 87
- Partsman: 80
- Tire Installer: 87

**Municipalities (dBA)**
- Grade Operator: 90
- Lifeguard: 78–90
- Mechanic: 83–90
- Sewer Worker: 88–100
- Street Cleaner: 90

**Schools (dBA)**
- Bus Driver: 83
- Music Teachers: 86
- Physical Education: 86
  (Teachers who referee)

**Construction (dBA)**
- Carpenter, Framer: 91
- Concrete Worker: 92
- Crane Operator: 90
- Drywaller: 89
- Electrician: 89
- Equipment Operator: 91
- Ironworker: 93
- Jackhammer Operator: 97
- Labourer: 93
- Mobile Equipment Operator: 91
- Roofer: 88
- Truck Driver: 89
- Welder: 94

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**Hearing loss** can result from exposure to sound levels at or above **85 decibels (dBA)** for extended periods of time.

### Noise Level (dBA = Decibel) & Recommended Hearing Protection

Hearing protection reduces exposure to noise. Select hearing protection by class and grade based on noise exposure, communication demands, hearing ability, use with other personal protective equipment, climate, and physical characteristics of the job or worker.

- **≤85 dBA**
  - Class C / Grade 1
- **<95 dBA**
  - Class B / Grade 2
- **<100 dBA**
  - Class A / Grade 4
- **<105 dBA**
  - Requires dual hearing protection such as earplugs & earmuffs together
- **>110 dBA**
  - See Canadian Standards Association recommendations or contact the Workers’ Safety and Compensation Commission.

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**SEE CANADIAN STANDARDS ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS OR CONTACT THE WORKERS’ SAFETY AND COMPENSATION COMMISSION.**
### Typical Noise Levels of Various Equipment and Activities

#### Environment (dBA)
- Aircraft (cruising): 71–83
- Ambulance Siren: 120
- Thunderclap: 120

#### Firearms (dBA)
- .22 Rifle: 132–139
- Hand Guns: 150–167
- Rifles: 156–167
- Shotguns: 147–149

#### Home & Garden (dBA)
- Air Conditioner: 60–72
- Alarm Clock Ring: 80
- Chainsaw: up to 125
- Dishwasher: 54–85
- Food Blender: 88
- Garbage Disposal: 68–93
- Hedge Cutter: 95
- Lawn Mower: 80–95
- Leaf Blower: up to 115
- Power Saw: 95–115
- Router: 85–110
- Snow Blower: 85–91
- Vacuum Cleaner: 60–82

#### Leisure Time (dBA)
- ATV, Quads: 90–110
- Motorcycle: 80–115
- Movies: 80–85
- Powerboat: 60–115
- Private Aircraft: 80–110
- Snowmobile: 86–100
- Zumba Class: 90–100

### How Fast Can Noise Damage Unprotected Ears?

Hearing loss can result from exposure to sound levels at or above 85 decibels (dBA) for extended periods of time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noise Source</th>
<th>Noise Level (dBA)</th>
<th>Exposure Time When Risk of Hearing Damage Occurs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vacuum Cleaner</td>
<td>85 dBA</td>
<td>8 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-Bike</td>
<td>80 dBA</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile</td>
<td>90 dBA</td>
<td>4 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td>95 dBA</td>
<td>2 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chainsaw</td>
<td>100 dBA</td>
<td>2 hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circular Saw</td>
<td>105 dBA</td>
<td>30 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tractor</td>
<td>110 dBA</td>
<td>15 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Blower</td>
<td>115 dBA</td>
<td>7.5 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chainsaw</td>
<td>&gt;115 dBA</td>
<td>Pain begins immediately.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance</td>
<td>145 dBA</td>
<td>Beyond pain threshold.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Music (dBA)
- At the Bar: 90
- Car Stereos: up to 154
- Dance Clubs: 90–115
- Earbuds or Headphones: up to 110
- Home Stereo: up to 115

### Toy Box (dBA)
- Balloon Pop: 157
- Bicycle Horn: 143
- Cap Gun: 99–156
- Hammer & Peg Board: 94–97

### Workshop (dBA)
- Circular Saw: 113
- Electric Drill: 94