



Noise Ordinance for Construction Sites

Title 12 – Public Peace, Safety and Morals; 12.86.520 Exemptions – Construction Sounds – exceptions.

- A. Normal and usual sounds created by construction, including on or by watercraft, are restricted to the following hours unless otherwise specified by the director, and are exempt from this chapter except as provided in subsection C. of this section:
1. For heavy equipment used on construction sites, including crawlers, tractors, bulldozers, rotary drills and augers, loaders, power shovels, cranes, derricks, graders, off-highway trucks, ditchers, trenchers, compactors, compressors and other similar equipment, operating hours are between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. weekdays and between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. weekends;
 2. For impact types of construction equipment, including pavement breakers, pile drivers, jackhammers, sandblasting tools or other types of equipment or devices that create impulse noise or impact noise, operating hours are between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekends; and
 3. For all other construction activities, operating hours are between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. on weekdays and between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on weekends.
- B. This section does not apply to sound created by mineral extraction or materials processing operations, which are governed by K.C.C. chapter 21A.22.
- C. Exterior construction sound levels heard from the interior of buildings within a commercial or industrial district, after efforts including closing windows and doors are taken to reduce the impact of the exterior construction noise, must not be unreasonable. Whether the construction sound levels are within the maximum permissible sound levels of this chapter may be a factor in determining reasonableness. (Ord. 18000 § 78, 2015).

Updated: January 1, 2019

Additional Resources

King County

[King County Code](#)

[Department of Local Services, Permitting Division](#)

[On-line Permit Status, Invoice Payment and Inspection Scheduling](#)

[IVR Inspection Scheduling, phone number and codes](#)