

Top Ten DIY Noises

Decibel Level *(averaged across make, model etc)

Lawn Mower	95 dB +
Hammer nails into wood	127 dB
Weed Trimmer	105 dB
Drilling with an Electric Drill	80 dB + (operated very close to ears)
Leaf Blower / Vacuum	110 dB
Cutting wood with an Electric Saw	100 dB +
Sanding with an Electric Sander	101 dB
Chainsaw	110 dB +
Power Tools (Grinder, Planers, Routers)	104 – 113 dB
Water Blaster	95 – 103 dB

* These values are indicative only, and have been collected from a range of sources. Accurate measurement and expression of noise levels involves frequency weighting and time averaging. Hearing damage risk depends on these factors as well as the noise level.

Decibel Level Comparison Chart

dB Sound	Effect on hearing
140 Shot gun blast	<i>Sounds above 130 dB may cause pain</i>
130 Jet taking off	Sounds above 115 dB may cause instant damage
110 Rock group or trail bike	
100 Pneumatic drill or MP3 player at top volume	Continued exposure to sounds over 80 dB leads to permanent hearing loss
90 Heavy truck	
80 Busy street or loud radio	
70 Noisy office	<i>Brief exposure to sounds over 80 dB may cause temporary hearing loss</i>
60 Normal conversation	
40 Quiet office or home	
30 Soft whisper	
15 Average hearing threshold	Below 80 dB, you can work an 8-hour day without using ear protection
0 Acute hearing threshold	

Always wear hearing protection in high noise environments - if you think it might be too loud, it probably is.