

MODEL NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE

This model is provided by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (Department) as guidance for municipalities to follow when adopting a noise control ordinance pursuant to the State's Noise Control Act and seeking to establish specific decibel standards to control noise. All such ordinances must be submitted for written approval to the Department.

(B) If a governing body of a municipality wants to change any provision(s) of this model ordinance such as hours of operation as it applies to subsequent sections, or wants to develop a noise ordinance that is not based on the model, the entire noise control ordinance including the proposed change(s) shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval, prior to adoption. The Department will review such noise ordinances to determine consistency with the statewide scheme for noise control and whether the ordinance is more stringent than the State's noise code, in accordance with the Noise Control Act.

If the Department disapproves the change(s), the ordinance shall be returned to the municipality and shall be considered disapproved, meaning that the municipality cannot enforce it.

MODEL ORDINANCE

TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE

Maximum permissible A-weighted sound levels when measured outdoors:

Residential:

7 am – 10 pm 65db	10 pm -7 am 50db	7 am – 8 pm 55db	8 pm – 7am 50db
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Maximum permissible A-weighted sound levels when measured indoors:

7 am – 10 pm 55db	10 pm – 7 am 40 db	We have no outdoor/indoor distinction
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New: Maximum Permissible Octave Band Sound Pressure Levels in Decibels

Sound Production Devices within a residential property:

Weeknights 10 pm – 7 am Weekends 11 pm – 9 am: 3db(C) All other times: 6db(C)	New category for indoor music
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Restricted use: Grass cutting, yard maintenance, power tools by owner:

8 pm - 8 am	7 am – 8 pm
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Restricted use: Same by commercial and public/municipal operators:

6 pm – 8 am weekdays 6 pm – 9 am weekends and federal holidays	9 am – 8 pm 9 am – 8 pm
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Construction Activity:

6 pm – 7 am weekdays 6 pm – 9 am weekends and federal holidays	7:30 am – 6 pm 8 am – 6 pm and no Sundays
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“...unless it can meet the sound limits.”

Personal repairs by homeowner exempt 8 am – 10 pm “without undue noise or disturbance of the peace and quiet of the neighborhood.”

Domesticated/caged animals (“Dogs”):

Vocalizing (howling, yelping, barking) for five (5) minutes without interruption; vocalizing for 20 minutes intermittently. (Affirmative defense clause.)

***Enforcement penalty elements per Ron Gordon**