

Noise Ordinances with Measured level Limits in North Carolina. Limits apply on or at boundary of Complainant property unless noted otherwise.

Caution: Most of these ordinances contain significant exceptions, sources that are not governed by the regulation. The ordinance must be consulted for these exceptions.

Caution: Many communities allow higher sound levels with a permit, often limited to weekend evenings.

Some communities have special for specific sources not listed here. Special amplified sound limits are listed.

These are general ordinances in most cases, Zoning Codes applicable only to new sources are noted.

| Location | Measurement Method | Receiver > Source > Period day/night \ / | Residential | | | Business | | Industrial | Notes - apply to locality but not specific line |
|-------------------------------|--|--|-------------|-----|--------|----------|--------|------------|--|
| | | | Res | Bus | Indust | Bus | Indust | Indust | |
| Apex | L10, 100 measurements, or 10 min average Maximum level | Day 7am-10pm | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 70 | Source and Receiver use defined by actual use of property unless specifically noted for locality Does not specify fast or slow Measure 10 ft from boundary on complainant property Uses based on Zoning, not actual use |
| | | Night 10pm-7am | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 65 | |
| | | Day 7am-10pm | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 80 | |
| | | Night 10pm-7am | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 75 | |
| Beaufort | Sound Level, Slow | Day 7am-10pm | 60 | 60 | 60 | 75 | 75 | 75 | Measurement either on ROW adjacent to source or on property of complainant |
| | | Night 10pm-7am | 50 | 50 | 50 | 60 | 60 | 60 | |
| Boiling Springs Lakes | Sound Level, unclear | Day 7am-10pm | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | | Measurement methods not specified Impulsive Sound at any time 70 |
| | | Night 10pm-7am | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | | |
| Camden Country | Max Level, Slow | Day 6am -11pm | 60 | 65 | 75 | 65 | 75 | 75 | Special Times Fri and Sat 5pm-11pm Holidays 6pm-11pm |
| | | Night 11pm-6am | 55 | 60 | 75 | 60 | 75 | 75 | |
| | | Special Times | 70 | 70 | 75 | 70 | 75 | 75 | |
| Carolina Beach | 1 minute Average | 7am-11pm, 12pm Fri Sat | 65 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | Limits based on "areas." Residential limits apply to "residential areas." Residences in business, harbor business, mixed use and industrial areas protected only by those limits Boundary situations are not clear |
| | | Night 11pm-7am | 55 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | |
| | Max Level, Slow, Continuous Sound | 7am-11pm, 12pm Fri Sat | 68 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | |
| | | Night 11pm-7am | 58 | 68 | 68 | 68 | 68 | 68 | |
| | Max Level, Slow, Events If exceeded twice/minute | 7am-11pm, 12pm Fri Sat | 65 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | |
| Night 11pm-7am | 55 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | | |
| Cary | Maximum level, Slow Amplified Sound, max slow "public entertainment" "public entertainment" "public entertainment" | Any time, any sound | 60 | 60 | 60 | | | | This line applies to amplified sound from any property The 65/55/40 dB limits apply to sound from "places of public entertainment" |
| | | Night 9am-9pm | 50 | 50 | 50 | | | | |
| | | Day 9am-9pm | | 65 | 65 | | | | |
| | | Evening 9pm-2am | | 55 | 55 | | | | |
| Chapel Hill | Maximum level, Slow sources since 9/24/2001 | 7am-11pm, 12 Fri-Sat | 50 | 50 | 50 | 65 | 65 | 70 | Industrial includes shopping centers, thoroughfare Sounds lasting less than 25% of 15 seconds are exempt All limits apply at boundary of source property |
| | | Night 11pm-7am | 45 | 45 | 45 | 55 | 55 | 65 | |
| Sources existing on 9/24/2001 | Maximum level, Slow | Day 8am-11pm | 60 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 65 | 70 | Third-octave limits also apply Old ordinance limits for older sources in residential areas |
| | | Night 11pm-8am | 50 | 50 | 50 | 55 | 55 | 65 | |
| Charlotte | Sound Level, unclear Amplified Sound, from any property from commercial establishments | Any sound, any time | 70 | 70 | 70 | | | | Measurement method not specified lower limits for amplified sound from any property apply at complainant location higher limits for amplified sound from commercial sources apply at the source boundary |
| | | 8am-9pm, 11pm F-Sat | 55 | 55 | 55 | | | | |
| | | Night 9pm-8am | 50 | 50 | 50 | | | | |
| | | 8am-9pm, 11pm F-Sat | | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 85 | |
| | 11pm -2am Fri-Sat eve | | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | | |

| Location | Measurement Method | Receiver > | Residential | | | Business | | Industrial | Notes - apply to locality but not specific line |
|--|--|------------------------|------------------------------|-----|--------|----------|--------|------------|--|
| | | Source > | Res | Bus | Indust | Bus | Indust | Indust | |
| Chatham County | Maximum Level, Slow | Period day/night \ | | | | | | | Source and Receiver use defined by actual use of property unless specifically noted for locality Ordinance actually says night is 10pm-10am Ordinance does not define property usages Measurement is at corner of complainant structure |
| | | Day 8am-10pm * | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | |
| | | Night 10pm-8am * | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | |
| | | * Thur eve 5pm-10pm | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | |
| | | * Fri-Sat 5pm-midnight | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | |
| | | * Sat-Sun midnight-1am | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | | |
| Creedmoor | Maximum Level, Slow | Day 7am-9pm | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | Limit imposed at boundary of source property |
| | | Night 9pm-7am | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | |
| Cumberland County | L10, 10 minutes, @ 5 second increments | Day 6 am - 10 pm | 60 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 65 | 75 | Octave band limits also apply Limits apply at or beyond boundary of source property Fast or slow not specified Sources with exemption or requiring special permits are still limited to levels 15 dB higher than indicated in table. |
| | | Night 10 pm-6 am | 55 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 60 | 75 | |
| Currituck County | Maximum Level, Slow | Day 7am-9pm * | 60 | 60 | 70 | 60 | 70 | 70 | |
| | | Night 9pm-7am * | 50 | 50 | 70 | 50 | 70 | 70 | |
| | | * Friday 5 pm-11pm | | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | |
| | | * Saturday 10am-11pm | | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | |
| | | * Holidays noon-11pm | | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | 65 | |
| Davidson, Town | Sound Level, unclear | Daytime See note | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | | Measurement method not specified Day = Sunday noon-6pm, Mon-Thur 7am-9pm, Fri 7am-11pm, Sat 8am-11pm |
| | | Night - other than day | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 | | |
| Durham, City | Sound Level, unclear | Day 8am-11pm | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | Measurement method not specified Limits apply at boundary of source property |
| | | Night 11pm-8am | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | |
| Fairmont, Town Amplified Sound Only | Sound level, unclear | Day 9am - 9pm | 55 | 55 | 55 | | | | |
| | | Night 9pm -2am | 50 | 50 | 50 | | | | |
| | | 2am - 9am | No amplified sound permitted | | | | | | |
| Fayetteville | L10, 10 minutes, @ 5 second increments | Day 6 am - 10 pm | 60 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 65 | 75 | Octave band limits also apply Limits apply at or beyond boundary of source property Fast or slow not specified Sources with exemption or requiring special permits are still limited to levels 15 dB higher than indicated in table. |
| | | Night 10 pm-6 am | 55 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 60 | 75 | |
| Garner Zoning Code | L10, 100 meas @ 10 sec intervals, fast or slow not specified | Day 7 am - 10 pm | 60 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 65 | 75 | For Pure Tone, Cyclically varying sounds or repetitive impulsive sounds, the limits are reduced by 5 dB |
| | | Night 10 pm - 7am | 55 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 60 | 75 | |

| PAGE 3 | | Receiver > Source > | Residential | | | Business | | Industrial | Notes - apply to locality but not specific line |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|---|
| Location | Measurement Method | Period day/night \ | Res | Bus | Indust | Bus | Indust | Indust | Source and Receiver use defined by actual use of property unless specifically noted for locality |
| Greensboro | Maximum Level, Slow | Day 7am-10pm Night 10pm-7am | 70 65 | 70 65 | 70 65 | | | | |
| Greenville | Maximum Level, Slow | Day 7am-11pm * except Night 11pm-7am *except * 5pm Fri thru 11 pm Sun | 60 55 | 65 60 70 | 75 75 | 65 60 70 | 75 75 | 75 75 | Limits based solely on source actual use. * weekend limits also apply noon-11pm on city holidays |
| Gaston County | Old Octave Bands | | | | | | | | |
| Havelock | Maximum Level, Slow | Daytime 7am - 11pm Nighttime 11pm-7am | 70 60 | 70 60 | 70 60 | 70 60 | 70 60 | 70 60 | Depending only on Source use |
| Hendersonville | Maximum Level, Slow | Day 7am-11pm Night 11pm-7am | 70 60 | 70 60 | 70 60 | 70 60 | 70 60 | 70 60 | Measured at source property boundary |
| Jacksonville | Sound Level, unclear Amplified sound only | Day 9am-10pm Night 10pm-9am | 70 60 | 70 60 | 70 60 | | | | Measurement method not defined |
| Kannapolis | Maximum Level, Slow Amplified sound only | Day 9am-9pm Night 9am-9pm from large entertainment * | 55 50 | 55 50 65 | 55 50 65 | | | | * for capacity 1000 or more |
| Kill Devil Hills Zoning Code | sound level, slow | | | 60 | 60 | | | | |
| Lenoir County | L10, Slow, 10 minutes | Day 6am-11pm Night 11pm-6am | | 75 60 | 75 75 | 75 60 | 75 60 | 75 75 | Original residential limits appear to have been repealed Maximum level limit 15 dB higher |
| Liberty Zoning Code | Sound Level | Day 7am -7pm Evening 7pm-10pm Night 10pm-7am | 70 65 60 | 70 65 60 | 70 65 60 | 75 70 65 | 75 70 65 | 80 80 80 | Impact Noises are defined as those lasting less than 1min in an hour are allowed to be up to 10 dB higher except in residential areas from 7pm to 7am and are measured with fast response |
| Lincolnton | Old Octave Bands | | | | | | | | |
| Lumberton | L10, 100 meas slow @ 10 sec increments Maximum Level, Slow | Day 7am-11pm Night 11pm-7am Day 7am-11pm Night 11pm-7am | 55 45 65 55 | 57.5 50 67.5 60 | 62.5 55 72.5 65 | 60 55 70 65 | 65 60 75 70 | 70 65 | Based on zoning of source and receive property regardless of actual use. Measurements at corner of complaining property structure if possible, otherwise at boundary of complainant adjacent to public right of way. |
| Maggie Valley | Maximum Level, Slow | Daytime 7am - 11pm Nighttime 11pm - 7am Weekend and Holidays * | 60 55 75 | 65 60 75 | 75 75 75 | 65 60 75 | 75 75 | 75 75 75 | Measured at boundary of source property * High levels allowed Fridays 1pm-11pm, Sat 10am-11pm, Sunday 1pm - 6pm and Holidays noon-11pm |

| Location | Measurement Method | Receiver > Source > Period day/night \/ Any time, any sound | Residential | | | Business | | Industrial | Notes - apply to locality but not specific line Source and Receiver use defined by actual use of property unless specifically noted for locality |
|---------------------------|--|--|-------------|---------|---------|----------|--------|------------|---|
| | | | Res | Bus | Indust | Bus | Indust | Indust | |
| Mecklenburg County | Maximum level, Slow | Any time, any sound | 60 | 60 | 60 | | | | The 65 dB limit applies to sound from "places of public entertainment" with capacity of more than 1000 |
| | Amplified Sound, max slow | Day 9am-9pm | 55 | 55 | 55 | | | | |
| | Amplified Sound, max slow | Night 9am-9pm | 50 | 50 | 50 | | | | |
| | "public entertainment" | Day 9am-9pm | | 65 | 65 | | | | |
| Mount Airy | Old Octave Bands | | | | | | | | |
| Monroe | Maximum level, Slow | Any time, any sound | 60 | 60 | 60 | | | | The 65 dB limit applies to sound from "places of public entertainment" with capacity of more than 1000 |
| | Amplified Sound, max slow | Day 9am-9pm | 55 | 55 | 55 | | | | |
| | Amplified Sound, max slow | Night 9am-9pm | 50 | 50 | 50 | | | | |
| | "public entertainment" | Day 9am-9pm | | 65 | 65 | | | | |
| Mount Olive | Maximum Level, Slow | Day 8am-11pm | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | |
| | | Night 11pm-8am | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | |
| Nags Head | Maximum Level, Slow | 7am-11pm * except | 57 | 65 | | 65 | | | Also has octave band limits |
| | | 11pm-7am * except | 52 | 60 | | 60 | | | |
| | | * Fri 5pm-11pm | 57 | | | | | | |
| | | * Sat, Sun, Hol Noon-11pm | 57 | | | | | | |
| | | * Fri 5pm-midnight | | | 65 | | 65 | | |
| | | * Sat, Sun, Hol Noon-12pm | | | 65 | | 65 | | |
| New Hanover County | Sound Level, Unclear | Day 7am-10pm | 65 | Unclear | Unclear | 75 | 75 | 75 | Measurement method unclear Limits based on zoning district, limits at zoning boundary unclear Measurement made nearest corner of complaining structure |
| | | Night 10pm-7am | 50 | Unclear | Unclear | 70 | 70 | 70 | |
| Orange County | Maximum Level, continuous sound -slow Intermittent sound - fast | 8am-9pm, 11 pm Fri-Sat | 60 | 60 | 60 | 65 | 65 | 70 | Measurement at corner of complainant structure For violation, sound must exceed limits 5 times at least 10 seconds apart |
| | | 9pm(11pm Fri-Sat) -8am, | 50 | 50 | 50 | 55 | 55 | 60 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Raleigh | L10, 100 meas slow @ 10 sec increments | Day 7am-11pm | 55 | 57.5 | 62.5 | 60 | 65 | 70 | Based on zoning of source and receive property regardless of actual use. Measurements at boundary of source if possible, otherwise at boundary of complainant adjacent to public right of way. |
| | | Night 11pm-7am | 45 | 50 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 65 | |
| Red Springs | Maximum level, Slow | Any time, any sound | 60 | 60 | 60 | | | | The 65 dB limit applies to sound from "places of public entertainment" with capacity of more than 1000 |
| | Amplified Sound, max slow | Day 9am-9pm | 55 | 55 | 55 | | | | |
| | Amplified Sound, max slow | Night 9am-9pm | 50 | 50 | 50 | | | | |
| | "public entertainment" | Day 9am-9pm | | 65 | 65 | | | | |
| Reidsville | Old Octave Bands | | | | | | | | |

| Location | Measurement Method | Receiver > | Residential | | | Business | | Industrial | Notes - apply to locality but not specific line Source and Receiver use defined by actual use of property unless specifically noted for locality |
|---|---|----------------------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|------------|--|
| | | Source > | Res | Bus | Indust | Bus | Indust | Indust | |
| Selma | Sound Level, Unclear Mechanical sound amplified sound * "public entertainment" | Any time | 60 | 60 | 60 | | | | * higher daytime limit for places of "public entertainment" with capacity greater than 1000 people |
| | | Day 9am-9pm | 55 | 55(*65) | 55(*65) | | | | |
| | | Night 9pm-9am | 50 | 50 | 50 | | | | |
| Thomasville | Maximum Level, Slow | 7am-11pm * except | 60 | 65 | 75 | 65 | 75 | 75 | All measurements at boundary of source property |
| | | 11pm-7am * except | 55 | 60 | 75 | 60 | 75 | 75 | |
| | | *Fri 5pm, Sat 10 am - 11pm | 70 | 70 | 75 | 70 | 75 | 75 | |
| | | * Holidays Noon - 11pm | 70 | 70 | 75 | 70 | 75 | 75 | |
| Wake County General Ordinance | L10, 20 meas. Slow @ 10 sec increments | Day 7am-11pm | 55 | * 55 | * 55 | 60 | *60 | 70 | Measurement 50 feet from source structure, or if not practical, at receiver right of way boundary * Limits based on zoning, unclear if zoning of source or receiver appears intent is zoning of complainant, receiver. Very short sampling time makes L10 essentially maximum level |
| | | Night 11pm-7am | 50 | * 50 | * 50 | 55 | * 55 | 65 | |
| Zonging Code | Maximum Level, Slow | Day 7am-9pm | 55 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 60 | 65 | For zoning code, limits are adjusted based on the following: Noise source operates less than 20% of any one hour period - Plus 5* Noise source operates less than 5% of any one hour period - Plus 10* source operates continuously but at frequencies below 500 Hz - Plus 10* Noise source operates less than 1% of any one hour period - Plus 15* Noise of impulsive character, such as hammering, pounding, etc. - Minus 5 Noise of periodic character, such as humming, screeching, etc. - Minus 5 * Apply only one of these correction factors |
| | | Night 9pm-7am | 45 | 45 | 45 | 60 | 60 | 65 | |
| Wake Forest | Sound Level, Unclear *from public entertainment | Day 9am-9pm | 60 | 60 (*65) | 60 (*65) | | | | Ordinance requires a meter with averaging capability, but neither an averaging time or a fast or slow time weighting are specified. |
| | | Night 9pm-9am | 50 | 50 | 50 | | | | |
| Waynesville | Maximum Level, Slow | Day 8am-11pm | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 60 | Limits imposed at source property boundary |
| | | Night 11pm-8am | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | |
| Wilmington | 1 minute Average | 7am-11pm, 12pm Fri Sat | 65 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | Limits based on zoning district, not clear at boundaries Business/indust limits apply "downtown." |
| | | Night 11pm-7am | 55 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | |
| | Max Level, Slow, Continuous | 7am-11pm, 12pm Fri Sat | 68 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | 78 | |
| | | Night 11pm-7am | 58 | 73 | 73 | 73 | 73 | 73 | |
| | Max Level, Slow, events If exceeded twice/minute | 7am-11pm, 12pm Fri Sat | 65 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | 75 | |
| Night 11pm-7am | 55 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | | |
| Downtown only midnight-2am Saturday and Sunday mornings - The daytime business limits apply | | | | | | | | | |