



## Key Provisions

### Key Provisions of the Noise Control Law:

- ✓ Provides day/night sound level limits.
  - Daytime - 65 decibels
  - Nighttime – 60 decibels
  - However, a sound level meter measurement is not required to establish a noise disturbance
  
- ✓ Establishes a Noise Control Board
  - Assists and advises the City on noise control issues.
  - Holds hearings and decides on two-party noise complaints.
  
- ✓ The law does not cover noise from:
  - Aircraft and railroads, motor vehicles on public roadways
  - Emergency operations by police, fire or public utilities
  - City services or City-sanctioned events

## Guidelines for Good Neighbors

### Common types of Noise:

- Heating or Cooling Equipment
- Music and PA Systems
- Noisy Neighbors
- Yard Maintenance and Leaf Blowers
- Construction

### Each of us can play a part in reducing noise levels and being a good neighbor.

- Monitor the volume of televisions, radios, and other sound-producing equipment, especially during nighttime. Pay particular attention to bass controls.
- Use manual tools such as brooms and rakes for cleaning porches, patios, and driveways. Reserve power tools like leaf blowers for large jobs that cannot be done manually.
- Consider the impact of noise from power tools in your home, garage, or outdoors.
- Check central and window air conditioning units periodically to ensure that they are operating as quietly as possible.
- Do not let dogs bark constantly.

## Solving Community Noise Problems

Many noise problems can be resolved through the same methods used to solve other disputes. Tactful person-to-person communication is a good way to start.

Remember, self-monitoring and mutual cooperation are essential to stopping problems before they happen.

## Noise Disturbances in Multi-Family Buildings

If tactful communications won't solve noise issues between neighbors in apartments, there are options:

1. In rentals, communicate with the tenant association (if applicable), building manager, or owner.
2. In a condominium, communicate with the condo board or building manager.
3. Mediation can be an option IF neighbors are willing to participate.
4. If two units are affected by the noise disturbance, residents can file a two-party noise complaint.



## Businesses Can Be Good Neighbors Too!

During nighttime hours, businesses (especially those near residences) should avoid:

- Construction and landscaping activities
- Loading and unloading goods and materials
- Use of electric sound and public address equipment
- Use of power equipment mounted on motor vehicles

Consider noise control when building, renovating, or buying/renting equipment.

# When Noise Disturbances Don't Stop, You Have Options

When noise disturbances continue despite attempts to resolve the problem, stronger actions may be warranted.

## One-Time Disturbance

While the noise disturbance is happening, call the Takoma Park Police Department at 301-270-1100.

## Ongoing or Persistent Noise Problems

Email [neighborhoodservices@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:neighborhoodservices@takomaparkmd.gov) or call 301-891-7113 to request that the Neighborhood Services Division investigate a noise complaint.

## Two-Party Noise Complaints and Noise Control Board Hearings

Two residents (from different households) can file a written noise complaint and request a hearing. The complaint must be filed within 10 days of the noise disturbance.

A more detailed description of the process for filing a noise complaint and the two party form can be found at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). Search "noise."

During a Noise Control Board hearing, the complainants can describe (and provide evidence of) their concerns. The individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed can respond. The Noise Control Board will decide what, if any, measures are necessary to ensure compliance with Takoma Park Noise Control Law. A failure to comply with the Noise Control Board's order can result in fines.

See also Takoma Park Code, Chapter 14.12 Noise Control.

### City of Takoma Park

Neighborhood Services  
7500 Maple Park Avenue  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

#### For more information contact:

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or  
[neighborhoodservices@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:neighborhoodservices@takomaparkmd.gov)

