

What You Need To Know About Noise



Dept. of Public Works
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069
(323) 848-6375

Code Compliance Message Line
(323) 848-6516

West Hollywood Sheriff's Dept.
(310) 855-8850

West Hollywood is a city of over 36,000 people living in a 1.9 square mile area. This, coupled with the City's vibrant nightlife, lead to issues of noise.

The West Hollywood Municipal Code is the body of laws that govern when noise can be made and to what level. While the City can address many noise issues, it cannot address all noise concerns.

This brochure outlines the basics of the noise ordinance and the responsibilities of every resident, visitor, and business in the City.

Who Enforces the Noise Code and How to File a Complaint

The Code Compliance Division has primary jurisdiction over most noise concerns. There is generally a Code Compliance Officer on duty during the following hours:

Days:

- Monday thru Friday: 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM
- Weekends – 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Evenings/ Nights

- Thursdays until 1:00 AM
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday until 3:00 AM
- Mondays until midnight

During these hours, if you need assistance, please call the Code Compliance Message Line at **323-848-6516**. Leave your name, contact number, the location, and a brief description of the concern. The Code Compliance Officer will receive the message and will respond as soon as they are able to.

Outside of the above stated hours, please contact the West Hollywood Sheriff's Dept. at **310-855-8850**. As law enforcement officers, they are empowered to respond to, and enforce the City's noise ordinance.

Amplified Sound, Radios, Musical Instruments, etc. (WHMC 9.08.050.a)

Between 10:00 PM and 8:00 AM, no noise shall be made by any stereo, television, musical instrument, or similar device that is plainly audible from a distance of 25 feet or more.

Outside of these hours, the noise code is silent on what constitutes a violation. As such, it is up to a Code Compliance Officer or law enforcement officer to determine if noise being created rises to the level of a violation.

Engines, Motors, Mechanical Devices (WHMC 9.08.050.b)

Between the hours of 10:00 PM and 8:00 AM, no person shall repair, test, or operate any motor or mechanical device in a manner that is plainly audible from a distance of 50 feet or more from any structure, or at a distance of 10 feet or more from any residence.

This would include lawn mowers or other landscape tools, compressors, generators, etc.

Loading and Unloading in or Near Residential District (WHMC 9.08.050.c)

Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., loading, unloading, opening, closing or other handling of boxes, containers, building materials, or similar objects is prohibited in a residential district or within fifty feet of a residential district.

Construction (WHMC 9.08.050.d) and **Commercial Tree Trimming/Removal** (WHMC 9.08.050.k)

Construction and Commercial Tree Trimming/Removal is permitted to be performed between the hours of 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM, Monday – Friday. On Saturdays, only interior construction can be performed between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM. No construction is allowed on Sundays or City holidays.

The term “construction” includes any activity that takes place that is related to any demolition, repair, maintenance, or construction that requires a building permit. This also includes the loading/ unloading of materials, the use of mechanical paint sprayers, or the staging or idling of construction equipment or food services vehicles at or near construction sites.

Interior construction is considered to be when all construction activities take place inside a structure that is completely enclosed by a roof and walls, with all doors and windows installed and closed.

****Exceptions****

These activities are permitted to take place outside of the normal hours with the issuance of an approved Extended Hours Construction Permit. The code allows the approval of these permits for the following reasons:

- The work requested promotes or protects public safety
- Hardship, including but not limited to unreasonable delay due to weather, acts of God or labor strikes, would result from the interruption thereof during the hours and days

****Other landscaping activities are NOT prohibited from taking place on Saturdays and Sundays.**

Dog Barking/ Animal Noise (WHMC 9.08.050.g)

No animal is permitted to make noise that disturbs the peace of other residents of the City. It is the responsibility of the animal guardian to make sure that their animals are good neighbors.

Barking is one of the ways dogs communicate. It can signify anything from playfulness to danger. The animal guardian is responsible for ensuring that the noise created by the animal is not so frequent or continuous that it rises to the level of a nuisance.

However, dogs sometimes bark when they are:

- Lonely
- Unexercised or under-exercised
- Deliberately or unintentionally provoked by people or passing dogs
- Sick
- Hungry, thirsty, etc.

If you suspect a dog is being mistreated, contact the LA County Dept. of Animal Care and Control at (310) 523-9566.

The causes of barking listed above should not be part of a dog's life. As well as indicating a possibly distressed animal, chronic excessive barking can disturb people living nearby.

Leaf Blowers (WHMC 9.08.050.h)

The West Hollywood Municipal Code prohibits the use of any portable leaf blower that is powered by a combustion or gasoline engine.

Electric leaf blowers are permitted.

Noise from Businesses Adjacent to Residential Property (WHMC 9.08.050.i)

Between the hours of 10 PM and 8 AM, sustained, continuous, or repeated noise from any commercial establishment that is plainly audible from any residential property is prohibited.

Noise includes, but is not limited to amplified music, voices, and vibrations.

****Exception** – Events that take place under an approved Special Event Permit are exempted from the noise ordinance unless this condition is expressly stated on the permit.

Loud Parties and Gatherings (WHMC 9.08.050.j)

It is prohibited to generate any noise from a party, event or other gathering of people on private property that is determined by a law enforcement officer to constitute a threat to public peace, health and safety or a violation of this code or state law due to:

- the magnitude of the crowd
- the volume of noise
- the level of disturbance to the surrounding neighborhood
- unruly behavior
- excessive traffic, or
- destruction of property generated by the party or gathering.

As this is a criminal issue, only the West Hollywood Sheriff's Dept. can respond to these concerns. Please contact them directly at 310-855-8850.