



**STPAUL.GOV**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**SAFETY AND INSPECTIONS**  
**(DSI)**

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**

# **Downtown Saint Paul**

## **Relevant Noise Ordinances (2026)**



# Saint Paul Noise Ordinances

## Chapter 293 – Noise Regulations

### Sec. 293.02. - Noise as a public nuisance

*It is unlawful for any person to make, continue, permit or cause to be made, continued or permitted within the city, any loud, disturbing or excessive noise which causes significant discomfort or annoyance to a reasonable person of ordinary sensitivities in the area.*



# Saint Paul Noise Ordinances

Sec. 293.02. - Characteristics and conditions considered in determining noise as a nuisance:

- *Time of day*
- *Duration*
- *Proximity to a sleeping facility or residential*
- *Number of people that are affected*
- *Noise sound level in comparison to ambient noise*
- *Land use from which the noise emanates and where it is perceived*



# Saint Paul Noise Ordinances

Sec. 293.06. - Domestic power tools.

*No person shall operate any domestic power tool between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in a distinctly and loudly audible manner as to unreasonably disturb the peace, quiet and comfort of any person nearby. Operation of a domestic power tool during those hours in such a manner as to be plainly audible at the property line of a structure or building in which it is located, in the hallway or apartment adjacent, or at a distance of fifty (50) feet if the source is located outside...*



# Saint Paul Noise Ordinances

Sec. 293.07. - Noise source limitations.

*No person shall operate or cause to be operated on any property or properties any source of noise or sound in such manner as to create a sound level outdoors which exceeds the limits set forth for the receiving land use classification in Table 1.*



# Noise Ordinances – Downtown Differences

**Table 1. Sound Level Restrictions for Receiving Land Use Classifications  
As Determined by the Location of the Receiver**

Noise Receptor	Land Use Classification	Time	Sound Level Limit (One hour L10 dBA)
Class I	H1, H2, RM1-RM3, RL, F1, CO, PD	7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	65 dBA
Class I	H1, H2, RM1-RM3, RL, F1, CO, PD	10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.	55 dBA
Class II	T1-T4, OS, BC, B1, B2, F2-F6, VP	At all times	70 dBA
Class III	B3-5, IT-I3	At all times	80 DBA



# Noise Ordinances – Downtown Differences

## Amplified Sound Restrictions

*Amplified sounds which exceed the sound level restrictions for receiving land use classifications described in Table 1, as measured by a pre-calibrated portable sound meter and which are not subject to an exemption must have a valid Amplified Sound Permit or Sound Level Variance.*



# Noise Ordinances - Downtown Differences

## Amplified Sound Permit

Permit allowed sound levels.

*Residential:*

*Up to 80 dBA measured at 50 feet from source*

*Non-residential:*

*Up to 90 dBA measured at 50 feet from source*



# Noise Ordinances – Downtown Differences

## **Sec. 357.05. – Solid Waste - Regulations**

Hours of collection:

*Residential areas: A solid waste collector licensed under this section may only collect mixed municipal solid waste or separate waste streams between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. in residential areas of the city.*



# Saint Paul Noise Ordinances

## **Compliance, penalties, and enforcement.**

### Chapter 293

*Generally is a misdemeanor, and a sentence of not more than 90 days in jail, or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both, may be imposed.*

### Business Licensing Chapters

*Adverse licensing action if business permits conditions that unreasonably annoy... the comfort or repose of any considerable number of members of the public.*



# Saint Paul Noise Ordinances

## Considerations

- 1) What is the source of the disturbing (nuisance) noise?
  - Need for a study
  
- 2) What are other competing interests/goals/priorities? E.g.
  - Clear sidewalks, trash collection, alley access, deliveries
  
- 3) Appropriate legal and enforcement tools?
  - Laws and consequences (Administrative citations)

# Questions



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