

Playing your part to reduce noise

Noise pollution is a growing environmental problem - it's far from just being an annoyance as it has very real negative effects on humans and animals. These effects are being studied around the world.

Noise is something we can all do something about; whether it's fixing a faulty muffler on your vehicle, turning down our music a little so our neighbors don't have to listen to it, or making the effort when we're outside not to yell or shout unnecessarily.

Here are some additional tips for noise reduction:

- Ringing cell phones annoy the heck out of many people—keep yours to the lowest level practical. Same thing with phone conversations.
- If you have to raise your voice to have a conversation, something's wrong; address the noise sources in your immediate environment that you have control over.
- Discourage your dogs from barking unnecessarily for prolonged periods of time.
- Institute quiet time in your household's routine.
- Make special efforts to keep noise to a minimum at night and early in the morning as these are times when people are trying to unwind.
- Believe it or not, nobody else wants to hear your music no matter how cool you think it is.
- If you do want to turn your stereo up; ensure the doors and windows are closed and reduce the bass levels as bass travels even through brick walls quite easily. Same advice for vehicles.
- If your lifestyle is a particularly rowdy one, consider planting more trees and shrubs around your property. This will help in reducing noise affecting your neighbors, as well as helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The City of LaPorte Police Department

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1910-2010
Proudly serving our community
for over a century

Mission Statement

The LaPorte Police Department will provide efficient, cost effective, full service law enforcement to the citizens and visitors of LaPorte, Indiana in a manner that is responsive to the ever changing needs of the community through the application of proven community policing and problem solving strategies.



Unlawful Noise Ordinance

What You Need to Know



Provided Courtesy of:
LaPorte Police Department
Crime Prevention

A Community Oriented Policing
Services based agency

What factors are used to determine “unlawful” noise?

Factors for determining whether a noise is unlawful include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Acts that are loud, unnecessary and unusual;
2. The distance at which the noise is plainly audible from where it is emanating;
3. The time of day or night the noise occurs;
4. The duration of the noise; and whether the sound is recurrent, intermittent, or constant.;
5. The location from where the noise is emanating and the area where it is received or perceived.

Penalties for Violation of Ordinance:

1. \$50 fine for first and subsequent offense.
2. Should any person fail to make payment within 48 hours of the issuance of the citation, a \$10 fee will be added to the citation fine.
3. Should any person fail to make payment within 30 days of the issuance of the citation, a \$25 late fee will be added to the citation fine.

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What does the ordinance prohibit?

The Unlawful Noise Ordinance prohibits any person to make, continue, or cause to be made any loud unnecessary or unusual noise or any noise which either annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others, within the limits of the city.

Examples of Unlawful Noise:

- The sounding of any vehicle horn, or signaling device except as a danger warning.
- The use, operation, or permitted operation of any radio, stereo, television, musical instrument, loudspeaker or other machine for the producing or reproducing of sound with volume louder than is necessary for convenient hearing for the person(s) in the room or vehicle. (The operation of any of the aforementioned devices between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. in a manner as to be plainly audible at a distance of 50 feet from the location where the noise is emanating shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.).
- Yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling or singing on public streets particularly between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- The keeping of any animal or bird that causes frequent or long continued noise which disturbs the comfort or repose of any persons in the vicinity.
- Excessive noise on any street adjacent to any school, church or court while in use, or adjacent to any hospital.

- The use of any automobile, motorcycle, or other vehicle so out of repair, so loaded, or in such a manner as to create loud and unnecessary grating, grinding, rattling, loud reports or shots, or other noise.
- Loud and excessive noises in connection with loading and unloading any vehicle.
- Construction, alteration or repair of any building other than between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays, except in the case of urgency for public health and safety, and then only with a permit from the City Engineer..
- The operation of any pile-driver, or pneumatic hammer between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- The operation of any noise-creating blower or power fan or any combustion engine, which noise is caused by the explosion of operating gases or fluids, unless the noise is muffled and is equipped with a muffler device sufficient to deaden such noise.
- Shouting, yelling, and crying of peddlers, hawkers or vendors.

See **Section 42-28** of the LaPorte Municipal Code for complete text of the Unlawful Noise Ordinance. The Municipal Code can be found at www.Municode.com.

