

Noise By-law Information Sheet

Town of Lunenburg



What does "excessively loud or disruptive" or "unreasonably disturbs" mean?

Noise may be considered a violation if it:

- Causes physical vibrations on neighbouring properties
- Interferes with indoor or outdoor conversation at nearby homes
- Involves yelling, amplified speech, or disruptive vocalizations
- Lasts more than 3 cumulative hours in a 6-hour window, even if it starts and stops
- Is audible beyond 100 feet during quiet hours (11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m)
- Comes from mechanical equipment that exceeds 50 dBA at the property line
- Creates low-frequency hums or rumbles that disturb rest or sleep

The Town uses a "reasonable person standard" to assess noise, meaning, would an average person in a similar setting find it too loud or disruptive?

What is a Fixed Exemption?

These are activities that are automatically allowed under the by-law and do not require a noise exemption, as long as they follow the time limits:

- Emergency services and vehicles – anytime
- Canada Day, New Year's Eve, and other cultural/religious holidays
- Parades, festivals, and special events approved by the Town (if they stay within permitted hours)
- Government and utility work, including urgent repairs
- Garbage collection (between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.)
- Audible pedestrian signals – anytime
- Emergency generators during power outages or emergencies

What are the rules for registered businesses?

Businesses can operate between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., as long as they:

- Follow basic equipment standards (such as working mufflers)

- Avoid sustained or disruptive noise as defined above

Examples of permitted business activities:

- General operations and maintenance
- Construction work during permitted hours
- Recorded background music
- Live music or entertainment, as long as it isn't excessively loud

Note: As a best practice, all individuals and businesses are encouraged to minimize noise wherever possible by maintaining equipment, adjusting timing, or using quieter alternatives when operating near homes.

What's always prohibited?

The following are never allowed, regardless of the time:

- Engines or tools without proper mufflers
- Vehicles making banging, squealing, or clanking sounds
- Unnecessary honking or warning sounds
- Firearms, unless used with blanks in sanctioned sporting events
- Private fireworks or aerial pyrotechnics
- Amplified shouting or advertising in a disruptive way
- Poorly maintained construction equipment causing avoidable noise in residential zones

Requesting an Exemption

If your activity is considered prohibited under this by-law but is still necessary for your event or project, you must request a Noise By-law Exemption before proceeding.

Questions?

Contact our By-law Enforcement Officer at bylaw@townoflunenburg.ca or 902-634-4410 x226.