

Under the Bellevue City Code (BCC), noise emanating from construction sites is prohibited outside of the hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. No construction site noise is permitted on Sundays and legal holidays. If after-hours sounds from a construction site are clearly audible across a real property boundary or at least 75 feet from their source, it will be considered a noise disturbance (BCC 9.18.040.A.4).

Are there exceptions?

Yes. The following sounds are exempt from BCC 9.18 at all times if the property where the sounds are heard is in a commercial or industrial zone; if the property where the sounds are heard is in a residential zone, the sounds are exempt from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends:

- sounds created by the repair or installation of essential utility services and streets
- sounds relating to temporary repair, addition, or maintenance projects on existing single-family homes, grounds, and appurtenances (except that sounds created by heavy equipment are restricted to the general construction-site hours above)

How do I apply for a construction-noise permit for expanded hours?

Hours for construction-related sound may be expanded beyond the hours stated in the code when exempted by permit issued by the Development Services Department (DSD).

Expanded hours may be authorized only if necessary to accommodate:

- transportation mitigation (such as evening haul routes)
- construction on schools and essential government facilities which cannot be undertaken during exempt hours
- site stabilization in the fall prior to the onset of winter weather
- emergency work

The application form and related conditions can be found online at the city's website: www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/PCD/forms_sound.pdf

What are the consequences for violating construction-noise regulations?

Construction-site noise disturbances outside of exempt hours are civil violations of the Bellevue City Code. The city will investigate complaints of construction-site noise disturbances; if a pattern of complaints is received concerning a specific construction site, city staff may also directly monitor that site to document noise disturbances.

Complaints about construction-site noise disturbances are reported by calling 911. Police Dispatch will have a list of permits for which expanded hours have been granted to construction sites. If the construction site complained about is not on that list, or if the noise is outside of the expanded hours shown on the permit, a police officer will be dispatched to the construction site.

The responding police officer will come to the construction site to observe sounds emanating from the site. If noise from the site is clearly audible across real property boundaries or at least 75 feet from its source, the officer may order construction activity producing noise to be halted. Any noise disturbance observed by the police officer will be documented in a case report forwarded to DSD Code Compliance.

After reviewing the police case report, Code Compliance will issue a civil Notice of Violation and schedule an appearance before the Hearing Examiner to request the imposition of fines.

Suggestions for mitigating the impact of construction-site noise on neighboring properties

- Conspicuously post the allowed hours of construction at the site, as required by the construction permit(s). DSD provides a placard showing the construction hours with each permit.
- Prepare information bulletins about the scope of the construction project and the general expected schedule of construction activities. Distribute those bulletins to the property managers and/or occupants of surrounding buildings. Have a supply of bulletins available on the fence of the construction site for passers-by. Update the bulletin regularly.
- Provide project contact information, including a regularly-monitored phone number, for neighbors to call and discuss noise disturbance issues. Frequently complaints can be handled by construction-site management directly, without a report to the city.
- Schedule deliveries to be made and completed within the exempt hours.
- Schedule construction activities such as crane work and concrete pumping to take place entirely within exempt hours, unless expanded hours have been authorized in writing by the department director or designated city representative. Maintenance and equipment clean-up and storage must be completed within allowed hours.
- Continually brief construction crews and subcontractors on the noise code requirements for construction sites.

For additional information

City of Bellevue Code Compliance, 425-452-4570 or codecompliance@bellevuewa.gov

This document is intended to provide guidance in applying certain regulations and is for informational use only. It is not a substitute for the Bellevue Noise Control Code (BCC 9.18) or other city codes. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Code Compliance program at the Development Services Department, 425-452-4570, or by e-mailing codecompliance@bellevuewa.gov. For assistance for the hearing-impaired, please dial 711.
