

Sound Permit FAQs

Amplified Sound

Sound permits may not be issued for the use of sound equipment located within 100 feet of property zoned and used as residential. You can have amplified sound from 10am to 10pm, up to 75 decibels without a permit in a residential area.

Temporary Event Sound Permit

Temporary Event Sound Permits (24-Hour or Multi-Day) are issued to event operators for up to four days of amplified sound. Multi-Day permits may include up to four consecutive days or four days within one month. A maximum of four Multi-Day permits, totaling 16 days may be issued to one site or property per calendar year. Multi-Day permits may not be issued within 30 days from the last event date to a new event date. No more than one permit may be issued for the same site or property during the Spring Festival Season. Apply for a Temporary Event Sound Permit [HERE](#).

Submission Deadlines:

24-Hour applications must be submitted 21 days prior to the event date. Multi-Day applications must be submitted 30 days prior to the first scheduled event date.

Fees:

Notification Fee, only required for Multi-Day applications: \$377.00, due at the time of application

Sound Impact Evaluation Fee: \$160.00, due at the time of application

Permit Fee, due at the time the permit is picked up:

- \$11.44/day for matters of public interest or political campaign
- \$22.88/day for a private party
- \$34.32/day for an advertising event
- No fee for a charitable organization or government agency

Outdoor Music Venue (OMV) Permit

Outdoor Music Venue (OMV) Permits are issued to outdoor live music venues for annual amplified sound. Apply for an OMV Permit [HERE](#).

Fees:

Notification Fee: \$377.00, due at the time of application

Sound Impact Evaluation Fee: \$200.00, due at the time of application

Permit Fee: \$67.08, due at the time the permit is picked up

OMV Extended Hours Permit

Outdoor Music Venues with standard hours of amplified sound may apply for extended hours during the spring festival season. The Music & Entertainment Division must conduct a sound impact evaluation in order to consider extending the hours. Apply for an OMV Extended Hours Permit [HERE](#).

Fees:

Sound Impact Evaluation Fee: \$160.00, due at the time of application

Contact: 512-974-1000, soundpermits@austintexas.gov

Sound Permit FAQs

Standard Hours of Amplified Sound and Decibel Levels

Warehouse or Sixth Street Entertainment: Sound equipment may be operated up to 85 decibels between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m.

Outside either district: Sound equipment may be operated up to 85 decibels or up to 70 decibels at a restaurant general (51% food sales).

- 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. on Thursday
- 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. midnight Friday and Saturday

Outside either district within 600 ft. of a property with residential zoning & use: Sound equipment may be operated up to 85 decibels or up to 70 decibels at a restaurant general (51% food sales).

- 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday (extension to 10:00pm possible with Music Office approval)
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday (extension to 10:00pm possible with Music Office approval)

Music Office Review

After receiving a permit application, the Music & Entertainment Division conducts a Sound Impact Evaluation of the site, which includes on-site inspections and sound measurements, discussions with nearby residents and business owners, and any additional research to assess potential impacts. If the application is for an event held on city parkland that is likely to have 7,500 or more attendees on any day, and the use of sound equipment is governed by [Chapter 9-2 \(Noise and Amplified Sound\)](#), a Sound Impact Evaluation is required. The Music & Entertainment Division will coordinate its review with the Parks and Recreation Department.

Based on the investigation the Music & Entertainment Division creates a Sound Impact Plan recommending approval (with possible restrictions) or denial of the application. If necessary to protect public health and safety, the division may recommend limits on attendance and capacity and more restrictive decibel limits and hours of operation. The Music & Entertainment Division may also recommend any appropriate restrictions for stage construction and orientation; size, location and orientation of speakers; appropriate sound buffering; and on-site decibel meters.

Noise Ordinance

[Chapter 9-2 \(Noise and Amplified Sound\)](#)