

Instructions and Information

Complete this application for a variance from the Portland Noise Ordinance if your activity will make more noise than the City Code allows. We won't be able to consider your application unless you've completely filled it out and included the payment.

Public notification is required for a variance. Please check with the Noise Control Office to find out about the best way to notify nearby neighbors. The Noise Control Officer will look at your application and either approve it with conditions, or deny it. Most applications are reviewed within 10 business days; but some may require more time. If you need help, please call the Noise Control Office at 503-823-7350.

A high impact event: An event attended by at least 250 people and will likely to increase the background noise level in residential or commercial zones by at least 15 dBA. (An increase of 10 dBA sounds twice as loud to people)

Review process: Applications for large activities, or activities lasting for a year or more are reviewed by the Noise Review Board (a volunteer group with monthly meetings). Variances going before the Noise Review Board are decided within 45 business days of receiving the completed application.

The Noise Control Office reviews all other applications. When possible, a decision will be made within 10 business days of receiving of the completed application.

Accelerated review: It may be possible to shorten the process if a faster review is needed. There is an additional fee for this, and the Noise Control Officer/Noise Review Board Chair would have to have enough time to look at the request to decide that the request is in the City's interest. The Noise Control Office needs at least 3 business days to review the application. If a Noise Review Board variance is needed, the Chair of the Noise Review Board needs at least 7 business days for review.

Standards for review: All applications will be reviewed considering the following measures:

- The reason a variance is needed
- Length of time the noise will be occurring
- How many people the noise will impact
- whether the public health, safety, or welfare is harmed
- Whether the noise impact outweighs the benefit to the public

Appeals: To appeal a variance decision to the City Council, the applicant or legal representative, or any person who has submitted oral or written testimony must take these steps:

- Notice of the intent to appeal must be submitted in writing to the City Auditor's Office within 10 days of the effective date of the decision.
- The notice must identify the decision that is being appealed
- It must include the appellant's name, address and signature, phone number, relationship to the variance decision action, and a clear reason(s) for the appeal.
- When the Auditor receives the appeal, they will schedule a date on the Calendar of the City Council.

Variance review/revocation: All variances are subject to review if they receive complaints. Violation of the terms of the variance may be grounds for revoking it or altering the conditions. The Noise Control Officer or any Police Officer of the City of Portland has this authority.



Noise Variance Application

This is an application for variance from the Portland Noise Ordinance. You should apply for it if your activity will make more noise than the City Code allows. **Please read both sides and fill it out carefully; your application will not be considered unless all information and required site plan is provided and legible.** Use separate pages if necessary. The request may be approved, denied or approved with conditions. Most applications will be reviewed within ten (10) business days; some may require more time. If you need help, you may call the Noise Control Office at 503-823-7350.

APPLICANT: Complete all sections, and please print legibly.

Applicant name _____

Contact phone _____ Cellular _____

Address to mail permit _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Name of organization or business _____

Name and type of activity _____

Describe specific activities requested for a noise variance _____

Expected attendance _____

Date(s) of activity _____ Requested hours, from _____ am/pm to _____ am/pm

Specify location of activity and attach a site plan that identifies streets and identifies residences _____

Number of neighbors contacted _____ Method of notification _____

What, if any, was the reaction to your notification _____

Name of person and contact number present and in charge of activity _____

Signature: _____ Date _____

***** This permit covers noise only. For information on alcohol, fire, or special events permits, call 503-823-4000

REVIEW FEES – 10 or more business days prior to date of event

<input type="checkbox"/> High Noise Impact Events	\$421
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise Review Board Variances & Motor Vehicle Racing	
<input type="checkbox"/> First Year	\$3,005
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Years	\$978
<input type="checkbox"/> All Other Applications	\$95

ACCELERATED REVIEW FEES – Less than 10 business days prior to the date of the event*

<input type="checkbox"/> High Noise Impact Events	\$843
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise Review Board Variances & Motor Vehicle Racing	
<input type="checkbox"/> First Year	\$6,011
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Years	\$1,956
<input type="checkbox"/> All Other Applications	\$191

*Variance applications submitted less than 4 business days prior to the date of the noise variance event, shall be charged a review fee equal to 1 ½ times the accelerated review fees listed above.

<input type="checkbox"/> Scope of Work Revision	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Other Applications	\$47
<input type="checkbox"/> High Noise Impact Events	\$92
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise Review Variances	\$476
<input type="checkbox"/> Date Change Only	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Other Applications, High Noise Impact Events	\$47
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise Review Board Variances	\$191

ADDITIONAL FEES

<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Review Fee	\$250
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County Recording Fee equal to the cost of recording charges

Sketch of site plan, identify streets and distances to residences

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a hand-drawn sketch of a site plan. The box is currently blank.

Please submit completed application and payment to:

**City of Portland
1221 SW 4th Avenue Room 110
Portland OR 97204**