



## Residential Noise Impacts



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The Colorado Department of Transportation has established noise criteria which are used to determine whether or not property is impacted by traffic noise. For residential property, the criterion is 66 decibels, measured outside the house. This is the level at which traffic noise would interfere with the ability of people to hold a normal conversation outdoors. New Federal guidelines in 2010 added criteria for traffic noise inside residences as well.

Traffic noise varies from instant to instant. The CDOT noise criteria are hourly equivalent sound levels, consistent with Federal requirements. The criteria use the "A-weighted" decibel scale, corresponding to range of sound detectable by the human ear.

Traffic noise levels are typically highest next to the road and decline as you get farther away. Most residences impacted by traffic noise are within 500 feet of the roadway.



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