

Amplified Sound Permits

Amplified Sound Permits allow the permittee to play amplified sound to 75 d(B) A during hours prescribed by each permit type.

- **Daily Permit** - Single-day only permit for amplified sound from 8 am - 10 pm.
- **Extended Permit** - Multi-day events not to exceed five days from 8 am - 10 pm.
- **Annual Permit** - A 12-month permit for non-Commercial Establishments; renews annually; allows use of amplified sound daily from 8 am - 10 pm (Sunday - Thursday) and 8 am - 11 pm (Friday - Saturday).
- **Commercial Establishment Permit** - A 12-month permit; renews annually. Required for *any* commercial establishment that plays amplified sound from 8 am - 10 pm (Sunday - Thursday) and 8 am - 11 pm (Friday - Saturday). Also allows a Commercial Establishment to play amplified sound outdoors at 68 d(B)A from 10 pm - 2 am (Sunday - Thursday) and 11 pm - 2 am (Friday - Saturday).

Complaints

How can residents file noise/sound complaints?

Residents have several options to file a noise/sound complaint with the Houston Police Department:

- Phone: 713-884-3131 (non-emergency line)
- Online: Attend a community meeting hosted by your local police station. (A map and listing can be found at https://www.houstontx.gov/police/pdfs/hpd_beat_map.pdf; calling the station to obtain the schedule will be required)
- Mail: Via postal service to the Office of The Chief of Police, 1200 Travis Street—16th Floor, Houston, Texas, 77002.



Noise and Sound Level Regulation

Chapter 30—City of Houston Code of Ordinances

City of Houston
Regulatory Permitting &
Business Licensing

Houston Permitting Center
1002 Washington Ave
Houston, Texas 77002

Phone: 832-394-8801

Fax: 832-395-9631

Email:

araregulatorypermitting@houstontx.gov

Chapter 30, Noise and Sound Regulation

On May 4, 2022, Houston City Council approved amendments to Chapter 30, Noise and Sound Regulations. These amendments are effective September 6, 2022.

Summary of amendments:

- Create a Commercial Establishment Sound Permit.
- Increase the maximum citation fine to \$2,000.00
- Require that a permit be issued to an establishment, rather than an individual.
- Refine administrative hearing process for revocation of a permit.
- Codify regulations related to the issuance of a permit for a protest at a residential location.

Commercial Establishment Sound Permit

What is a Commercial Establishment?

A commercial establishment is any business entity that offers for sale or allows its patrons the ability to consume food or beverages or any combination thereof on its premises.

What is a Commercial Establishment Sound Permit?

As of September 6, 2022, a Commercial Establishment Sound Permit will be required for any Commercial Establishment that wishes to play amplified sound outdoors or amplified sound appreciated outdoors within 300 feet of a residence. **Note:** Commercial Establishments are not allowed to play *any* outdoor amplified sound between 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

When will a commercial establishment need to obtain a commercial establishment permit?

A commercial establishment permit will be required as of September 6, 2022.

If a restaurant or bar already has an annual permit, will it be required to obtain the new Commercial Establishment Permit?

If the annual permit is still active on 9/6/2022, the City of Houston will automatically convert the annual permit into a Commercial Establishment permit.

How can a permit be suspended or revoked?

ARA will recommend suspension or revocation if the permittee:

- Fails to comply with any applicable provisions of Chapter 30; or
- Receives two or more convictions for violation of any of the provisions of Chapter 30 within a 36-month period.

How to Apply:

In Person:

Houston Permitting Center
1002 Washington Ave
Houston, Texas 77002

Online:

Request access to the online portal here: <https://permits.houstontx.gov/aracontactus>. Once account has been created, you will receive access to apply online within 24-business hours.

Applications and fee information can be found on our website: <http://houstontx.gov/ara/cp/soundandnoise.html>