

How Loud Is It?

Waste Management

*Here are some typical Waste Management noise levels. Note: these are examples only and may not apply to your specific worksite. Noise-induced hearing loss results from a combination of high sound levels and extended periods of exposure to sounds above 85 dBA. **Protect your hearing when performing these jobs.***

1. Noise Exposure Levels

Banging on garbage bins ... (5 feet away)	100 dBA
Banging on bins	
Garbage Truck, cab.....	
(window open).....	91 dBA
Garbage Truck, cab	
(window closed)	88 dBA
Behind Garbage Truck	
(while compacting)	89 dBA
(30 feet away)	98 dBA
Sewer Truck, cab	94 dBA

The following are 8-hour equivalent exposures:

Truck Driver	88 dBA
Glass, Bottle Manufacturing	
.....	88 dBA
Hammermill.....	101 dBA
Metal Recycling.....	95 dBA
Paper Recycling.....	95 dBA
Swamper	83-95 dBA
Sewer Installation	89-100 dBA
Sewer Flushing	100 dBA

2. Hearing Protection Devices (HPDs)

Hearing protection should be selected based on evaluating all of the following factors:

- noise exposure
- communication demands
- hearing ability
- use of other personal protective devices
- temperature and climate
- physical characteristics of the job or worker.

Noise Exposure Recommended HPD

Less than 90 dBA	Class C, Grade 1
Less than 95.....	Class B, Grade 2
Less than 100.....	Class A, Grade 3
Less than 105.....	Class A, Grade 4
Less than 110.....	Earplugs + Earmuffs

