



Application Information & Instructions

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- Please take a moment to review the Construction Noise Ordinance language provided on page 3 of this document.
- A Construction Noise Ordinance Exemption Permit is **required** for all noise-producing construction occurring during prohibited times. Noise-producing construction activity is **allowed** on the following days/hours (see page 3 for exemptions):
 - Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 - Saturday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
 - Not on Sunday
 - Not on City Holidays
- Applications and all supplemental materials are to be submitted to the Permit Center at 2 George Street. Applications can be delivered in-person to the Permit Center or e-mailed to permits@charleston-sc.gov as PDF attachments.
- **Applications must be submitted a minimum of two-weeks prior to after-hours construction.**
- Depending on the nature of the project, the application will be reviewed by the relevant City Department/Division:
 - For private property construction, demolition, and site work:
 - Building Inspections Division, (843) 577-1685
 - For work on sidewalks and public right-of-way (other than roads):
 - Engineering Division, (843) 724-3754
 - For roadway construction:
 - Traffic and Transportation Department, (843) 724-3790
- Applicants may be instructed to provide notice to impacted businesses and neighborhoods. Communication requirements will be determined by the Business & Neighborhood Services Division, (843) 853-7237.
- Permit shall expire 7 days after notification of approval. Applicant must reapply for permit renewal for any work extending beyond the 7-day expiration date.
- Please direct questions to permits@charleston-sc.gov or by calling (843) 577-5550.



Application for Construction Noise Ordinance Exemption Permit

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I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Company: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

II. PROJECT INFORMATION

Address of Work: _____

Permit # (if applicable): _____

Project Type (check all that apply):

☐ Building Construction/Renovation

☐ Other (please describe):

☐ Demolition

☐ Site Work

☐ Roadway Work

III: DATE(S)/TIME(S) OF PERMIT REQUEST

Date Range of Permit Request): _____

Times of Noise-Producing Construction: _____

IV: JUSTIFICATION

Provide all relevant information (technical justifications, logistical justification, etc.) showing that no reasonable alternatives exist to creating the noise at night and that the activity involved is compatible with the public safety and interest (such as avoiding traffic congestion on main thoroughfares).

Please attach any supporting documentation along with application.



SECTION 1. Chapter 21 of the Code of the City of Charleston is hereby amended to create a new Section 17 that reads as follows:

"Sec. 21-17. BUILDING CONSTRUCTION OPERATION NOISE.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to use or cause the use of any mechanical equipment or tool operated by fuel or electric power in the building, construction, repair, renovation, or demolition operations, including, but not limited to, pile drivers, excavators, backhoes, pneumatic hammers, derricks, cranes, steam or electric hoists, the use of which causes loud and repetitive noises in the City other than between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. weekdays and 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays. No such construction operations which cause loud and repetitive noises shall occur on Sundays or on the following City holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

(b) The following noises shall be exempt from the prohibition of subsection (a):

- (1) The sound produced by emergency repair measures necessary to safe guard or restore public utilities or property to a safe condition, or to protect persons or property from imminent danger, in preparation for, or following a fire, accident or natural disaster, such as a hurricane.
- (2) Work ordered by a City Official or by court order to secure property.
- (3) Utility construction work or construction work conducted on the public right of way.
- (4) Concrete pouring; provided, however, that 48-hours' advance notice shall be provided to all residents impacted by such activity.
- (5) Repairs, maintenance, or indoor remodeling that is completed entirely by the homeowner and where the noise is contained completely within the structure.
- (6) Work performed substantially by a homeowner on their own home.

(c) The City may issue a permit exempting specific construction projects and maintenance of public streets and rights-of-way from the prohibitions of subsection (a), provided the person seeking such permit can make a showing that no reasonable alternatives exist to creating the noise at night, that the activity involved is compatible with the public safety and interest (such as avoiding traffic congestion on main thoroughfares), and the disruption is temporary. This includes but is not limited to:

- (1) Projects whose timely completion is deemed key to public interest, such as schools, hospitals, municipal facilities, affordable housing, etc.
- (2) Repairs, maintenance, or remodeling to existing occupied spaces that would prohibit normal operations if conducted during standard business hours.
- (3) Placement of equipment and delivery of materials that would impact public safety and transportation if conducted during standard business hours.

Permits granted under this subsection (c) shall expire after seven days and may be renewed upon reapplication subject to the conditions listed herein.

(d) Nothing herein shall be construed to relieve any person from complying with the provisions of Section 21-16 of this Code.