



Soundproofist's noise checklist

For renting or buying a new home

Building age / modifications

What year was it built? _____

Was it obviously remodeled? _____

Single or double-paned windows? _____

Ceiling height: _____

Appliance age: _____

Older appliances are usually noisier and less energy-efficient.

Walls

Shared walls? _____

Insulated or hollow? _____

Plaster or drywall? _____

Can you hear traffic?: _____

Decibel test: _____

Should be about 35 dB when no one is talking in the room.

Watch out for:

Ceiling fans

Recessed lights

Vibration from HVAC, heat pumps, etc.

Elevator noise

Noise "tunnels" (air shafts, etc.)

Floors

Wood / laminate / concrete? _____

Carpeting? _____

Are floors noisy? _____

Exterior hall carpeting?: _____

Any underlayment (i.e. cork?): _____

Neighborhood

Dense or open space? _____

Traffic noise? _____

Near transit station? _____

Bars / restaurants?: _____

Mid-block or on corner?: _____

You might get more traffic noise at a corner from car acceleration.

Be sure to check:

Any noise maps for the area

Flight paths from airport

Proximity of neighbor's balconies

Truck or school loading zones

Location of fire house, ER (for sirens)