

CONSTRUCTION NOISE

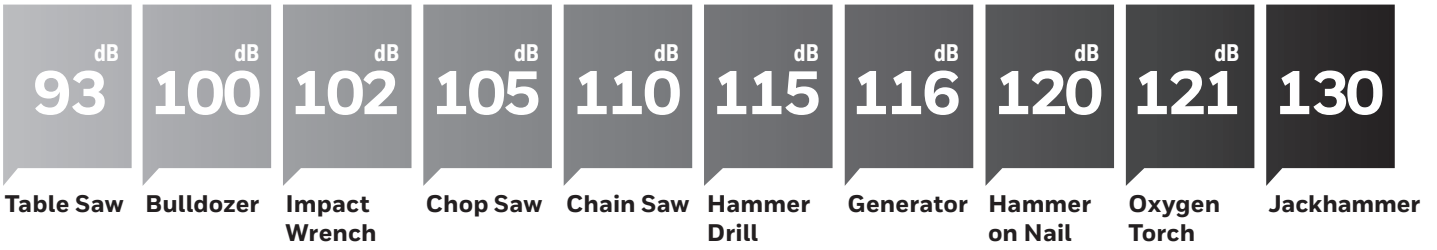
Know the risks and how to protect workers



Construction workers experience the second highest rate of occupational exposure to noise hazards

- Construction sites are noisy no matter what precautions are taken
- The jobs conducted and tools used vary within a shift or project – so do the noise hazards
- Impact-noise exposures are plentiful
- It's challenging to train and fit a part-time or transient workforce with hearing protection
- Site managers are often responsible for mandating hearing protection

COMMON CONSTRUCTION NOISE HAZARDS



85 dBA



Regular 8-hour exposures to 85 dBA can damage hearing



100 dBA



Repeated exposures of just 1 hr/day to 100 dBA noise can damage hearing

CFR 1926.101: OSHA's regulation for hearing protection in construction. It states that wherever noise levels or duration of exposures exceed 85 dBA in an 8-hour time-weighted average, ear-protective devices shall be provided and used. Ear-protective devices inserted in the ear shall be fitted or determined individually by competent persons.

Yet, more than 31% of noise-exposed construction workers report not wearing protective devices.

CAUSES	EFFECTS
Continuous exposure to sounds \geq 85 decibels	Leads to temporary or permanent hearing loss
	Tinnitus (ringing in the ears)
	Limits ability to understand speech
1-time impulse or impact noise exposure	Impairs ability to communicate
	Reduces productivity
	Leads to social isolation and withdrawal
	Increases risk of hypertension and high cholesterol

EXPOSURE RATES AND EFFECTS

51%

of construction workers have been exposed to hazardous noise

25%

of noise-exposed tested construction workers have a material hearing impairment (impacts day-to-day activities)

16%

of noise-exposed tested construction workers have hearing impairment in both ears

14%

of construction workers have hearing difficulty

7%

of construction workers have tinnitus

Duration of exposure and proximity to the source are key factors that impact the effect of noise on hearing.

TIPS

Noise-induced Hearing Loss is fully preventable, here is how:



Fit-Testing provides an accurate, real-world picture of your employees' hearing protection and identifies comfortable, convenient, and compatible solutions.

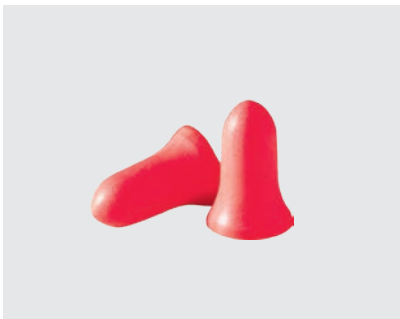


Educate teams on site-specific noise hazards, invite safety specialists to speak on hearing protection, and encourage compliance through positive incentives.



Hold free training classes on hearing protection and how to achieve a reliable, comfortable fit and encourage peer-to-peer support for using protective devices.

SOLUTIONS



Disposable foam earplugs – for comfort and greater protection



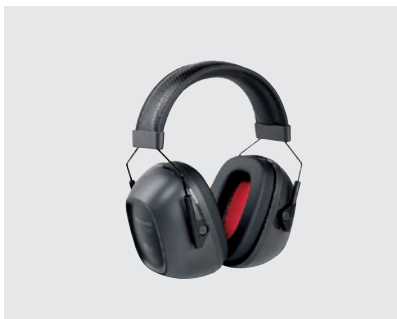
Push-in foam earplugs for ease of insertion and comfort



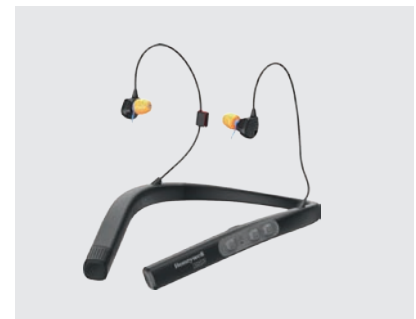
Reusable earplugs – for ease of insertion and use



Banded earplugs – for lower-level and intermittent noise



Over-the-head earmuffs



Smart Hearing Solution – Next Generation Hearing Loss Prevention

Optional: Custom molded earplugs – for difficult-to-fit workers