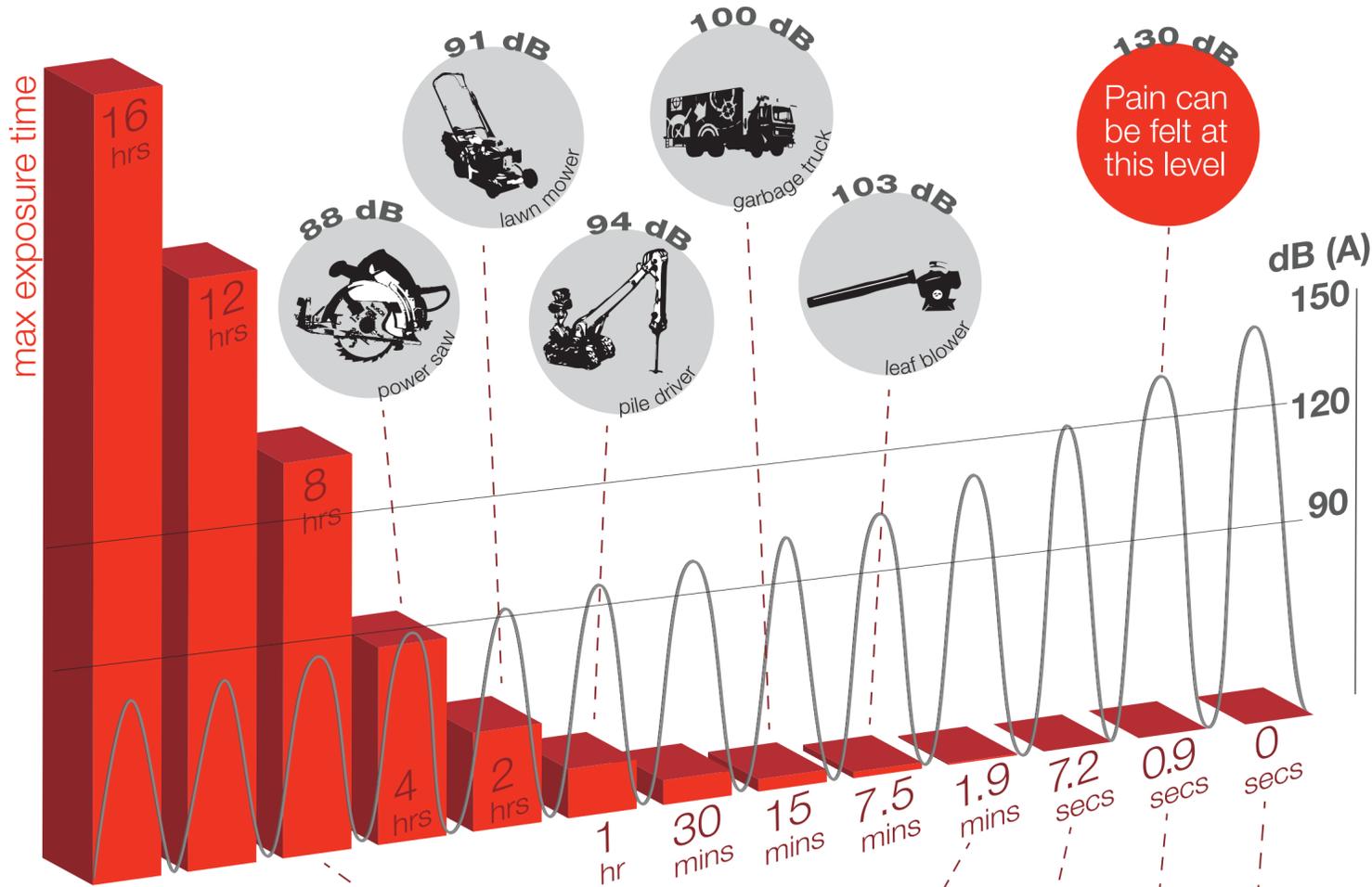


We won't hear of you not knowing... THE FACTS ABOUT EXCESSIVE NOISE

This noise safety poster was produced in the interests of managing noise and improving hearing safety in the workforce by Flexshield.



HOW MUCH NOISE IS TOO MUCH?

The above graph represents the length of time a person without hearing protectors can be exposed before the safety standard is exceeded.

NB: An increase of just 3 dB(A) halves the exposure time

Machine/Process	Measured sound decibel level dB(A)	Duration per shift
Circular saw — cutting hardwood	94	2 hrs
Planer — planing hardwood	100	3 hrs
Power drill — drilling hardwood	87	4 hrs
Hammering nails into wood	98	10 mins
Background	70	1 hr 20 mins

A PRACTICAL DEMONSTRATION

A classic example of a carpenter working a 10.5 hr shift using the tools and machines as listed.

Noise Hazard Identification *Checklist*

'Yes' to any of the following indicates the need to carry out a noise assessment if exposure to the noise cannot be immediately controlled.

	Hazard identification questions	Yes	No
1	Is a raised voice needed to communicate with someone about one metre away?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Do your workers notice a reduction in hearing over the course of the day? (This may only become noticeable after work, for example, needing to turn up the radio on the way home)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Are your workers using noisy powered tools or machinery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Are there noises due to impacts (such as hammering, pneumatic impact tools) or explosive sources (such as explosive powered tools, detonators)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Are personal hearing protectors used for some work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Do your workers complain that there is too much noise or that they can't clearly hear instructions or warning signals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Do your workers experience ringing in the ears or a noise sounding different in each ear?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Do any long-term workers appear to be hard of hearing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Have there been any workers' compensation claims for noise-induced hearing loss?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Does any equipment have manufacturer's information (including labels) indicating noise levels equal or greater than any of the following:		
	(a) 80 dB(A) LAeq,T (T= time period over which noise is measured)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(b) 130 dB(C) peak noise level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(c) 88 dB(A) sound power level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Do the results of audiometry tests indicate that past or present workers have hearing loss?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Are any workers exposed to noise and ototoxins in the workplace?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Are any workers exposed to noise and hand-arm vibration?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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