

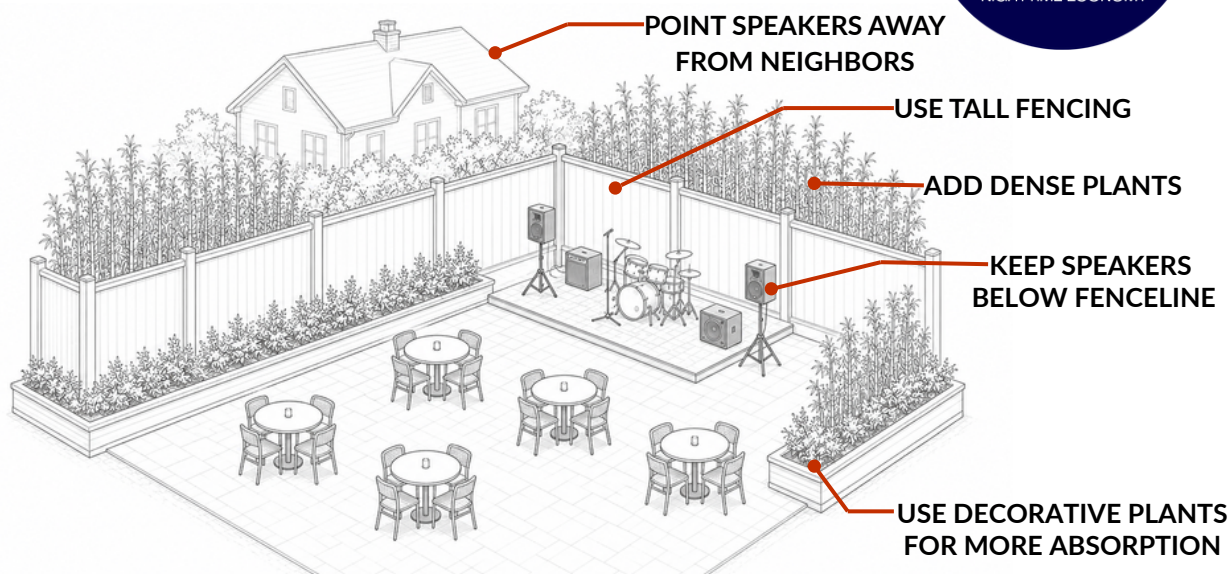
OUTDOOR SOUND MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST & GUIDELINES

Practical tips for patios, courtyards, outdoor stages, rooftops, beer gardens, and other outdoor entertainment spaces.



Sound better, not louder.

Simple steps can help reduce noise impacts, improve guest experience, and support long-term business success.



Basic Sound Management Tips

1. Point speakers toward your audience and away from nearby homes and businesses.
2. Keep speakers as low as practical and avoid placing them above fence lines.
3. Reduce excessive bass, as low frequencies travel the farthest and are the most common source of complaints.
4. Conduct occasional sound checks from nearby sidewalks, streets, and neighboring properties when possible.
5. Use landscaping, fencing, barriers, or other screening elements.
6. Notify neighbors in advance of special events that may generate additional noise or activity.
7. Regularly inspect common outdoor sound pathways including:
 - a. Property lines
 - b. Open gates and entrances
 - c. Fencing and barriers
 - d. Adjacent residential properties

Sound Management Shopping List

SOUND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

- ☐ Directional speakers
- ☐ Distributed speaker systems (more speakers at lower volume)
- ☐ Subwoofer isolation pads

SITE DESIGN & SOUND BARRIERS

- ☐ Tall fencing
- ☐ Sound-rated barriers or walls
- ☐ Dense landscaping buffers (like bamboo)
- ☐ Large planters
- ☐ Acoustic stage enclosures or shells

OPERATIONS & MONITORING (FREE!)

- ☐ Decibel meter or NIOSH Sound Level Meter App (free)
- ☐ Sound monitoring training for staff
- ☐ Written sound management plan
- ☐ Neighbor notification procedures