



AMERICAN SUPPRESSOR ASSOCIATION

LAWFULLY OBTAINED
SUPPRESSORS IN THE U.S.
[JANUARY 2020]

1,800,000

SINCE ASA'S
FORMATION IN 2011

18 STATES HAVE LEGALIZED
SUPPRESSOR HUNTING &

3 HAVE LEGALIZED SUPPRESSOR
OWNERSHIP

U.S. SPECIAL
OCCUPATIONAL TAXPAYERS
[SOT'S, TAX YEAR 2018]

12,460



There's Nothing Silent About Silencers

No tool can make a gunshot silent. Guns are simply too loud. Silencers, also known as suppressors, simply reduce the dangerously loud noise of a gunshot to safer levels. Suppressed gunshots are still as loud or louder than a jackhammer striking concrete. **Would you trust anyone who told you that a jackhammer is too quiet to hear?**

Federal Regulations

Suppressors are regulated under the National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934 and fall under the purview of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). In order to buy a suppressor, you must send ATF an application including fingerprints, passport photos, and a \$200 transfer tax, notify your local Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO), and wait for ATF to process the application. Upon approval, ATF will enter your information into a national registry.

Federal regulations carry enhanced penalties for criminal use. Legally obtained suppressors are used so rarely in crime that ATF has publicly stated that suppressors "should not be viewed as a threat to public safety."⁵

AmericanSuppressorAssociation.com

Suppressor laws are subject to frequent change and interpretation. This map does not constitute legal advice. To ensure full compliance, consult a local attorney for an accurate interpretation prior to usage.



SUPPRESSORS = HEARING SAFETY

AN UNSUPPRESSED
GUNSHOT RANGES FROM
140–185dB



EXPOSURE TO A *SINGLE SHOT*
CAN CAUSE PERMANENT HEARING DAMAGE



THE MOST
SERIOUS THREAT
TO HEARING COMES FROM
RECREATIONAL HUNTING
OR TARGET SHOOTING

1



“SILENCED” GUNSHOTS
ARE STILL AS LOUD AS A
JACKHAMMER STRIKING
CONCRETE.

2



70–80%
OF HUNTERS NEVER WEAR
HEARING PROTECTION

3, 4



“**[SUPPRESSORS]**
SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED
AS A THREAT TO PUBLIC
SAFETY”
— ATF

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“Persons wearing conventional hearing protection are **NOT WITHOUT RISK** of [Noise-Induced Hearing Loss] when using firearms.”



“[The National Hearing Conservation Association] **supports the use of firearm noise suppressors** as a form of an engineering noise control to reduce hazardous firearm noise exposures.”

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1 Dr. William W. Clark, Director of the Washington university school of medicine's program in audiology
2 Additional information on noise levels and exposure limits can be found through CDC, NIOSH, 3M, or UF Studies
3 Wagner A, Stewart M, Lehman ME. (2006) Risk patterns and shooting habits of recreational firearm users. In: Abstracts of the National Hearing Conservation Association Annual Conference 2006, Tampa, Florida. NHCA Spectrum 23(Suppl. 1):28.

4 Stewart M, Foley L, Lehman ME, Gerlach A. (2011) Risks Faced by Recreational Firearm Users. Audiology Today, March-April:38–52.
5 Turk R. (2017) Options to Reduce or Modify Firearms Regulations. Federal Firearms Regulations: 6-7.
6 Blank A. (2019) National Hearing Conservation Association. Letter to Knox Williams: 1-2.