

Engine Brake FACTS

Muffled Engine Brakes are commonly also known as "Jake Brakes"

Thresholds*	Decibel Level	
Painful	140	Firecrackers, Gun
	130	Jackhammer
Extremely Loud	120	Loud Rock Concert
	110	Power Lawn Mower
	100	Trucks (Unmuffled) 101db
Very Loud	90	Passing Motorcycle
	80	Trucks (Muffled) 83db
	70	Vacuum Cleaner
Moderate	60	Normal Conversation
	50	Moderate rainfall
	40	Quiet Room
Faint	30	Whisper
	0	

*Thresholds are based on the American Speech Language Hearing Association for noise levels

"But I have seen signs that say no Jake Brakes in town"

Local agencies (such as cities) may pass ordinances prohibiting the use of "Jake Brakes" on local streets.

This does not apply to state highways.

How Loud are Muffled Engine Brakes?

Even when trucks engine brakes are muffled the noise they create fall within the threshold of **very loud**.

Depending on the surroundings this noise may be worse in some areas compared to others as it may echo off buildings or bodies of water.

Although, frustrating these brakes are improving **safety** for **everyone** on the road.

Why Can't ODOT Restrict Engine Brakes?

Engine brakes improve safety of the open road for everyone by reducing the chance of brake failure.

Normal braking creates heat by friction. When there is too much heat it can increase the chance for brakes to overheat and fail.

By Oregon Law muffled engine brakes can not be restricted on **State Highways**, including within city limits.

The Law & Enforcement

Unmuffled engine brakes are illegal in Oregon whether it is signed or not. Most trucks abide to the law and are now muffled.

It is up to the interpretation of local law enforcement to determine if the noise by a truck is excessive.