



Residential Sound Insulation Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Residential Sound Insulation Program

The Residential Sound Insulation (RSI) program is a City program which provides home improvements that reduce noise in those residences most affected by LAX noise. The City began its program in 1993, and is funded by grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA).

2. Who is eligible for the RSI Program?

All residential structures built prior to 1998 and located in green and yellow areas depicted on the attached map are eligible for the program. If the structure has already been treated under the City's RSI Program, it is not eligible to be treated a second time.

3. What improvements will be made to my home?

Typical improvements include acoustically rated replacement windows and exterior doors, additional attic insulation, fireplace glass doors, and ventilation systems (which might include a new furnace) to provide fresh air during times occupants choose to have windows and doors closed. The specific improvements for your home will be determined by our design team.

4. Do I give up any property rights?

No. In rare exception, owners of homes in the loudest noise contour must sell noise rights (at fair market value) as a condition of the program. Similarly, owners of homes built in 1989 or later are required to grant a noise easement to LAWA in order to be eligible for LAWA funding. The vast majority of homeowners will not give up any rights.

5. How quiet will my house be after RSI Improvements are complete?

The goal of the program is to achieve an average 45 dB (decibel) Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) inside of the home, which is quieter than most normal conversation.

6. Will the construction affect my property taxes?

The City has no jurisdiction over property tax rates, however the State Board of Equalization has indicated that the County Assessor's Office should not assess additional value due to sound insulation improvements.

7. How do I apply?

It could not be easier. Simply fill out the one-page application and return it to the City with a copy of your Property Deed. This will place your property on the waiting list. If you need help, please contact the RSI Program offices at (310) 534- 2384.

8. How long does it take to Sound Insulate a home in El Segundo?

The following shows how long each phase of work typically takes:

- Initial design work..... 2 months
 - Reviews and required approvals 2 months
 - Final approval by property owners1 month
 - Required advertisement for Contractor Bids1 month
 - Contractor background checks and contractor selection.....1 month
 - Final measurements for product orders1 month
 - Product manufacturing and delivery 3 months
 - Construction..... 10 to 15 working days
- Total time: approximately one year from the start of design work

** Please note that this timeline starts with the start of design work, not with the date an application is received

9. Is there anything that I will have to pay for? Can I pay for upgrades and extras?

- Curtains, Blinds and Shutters – The RSI Program does not cover costs for new window treatments – including if existing window treatments no longer fit after RSI Improvements.
- Costs associated with correcting existing Code Violations or repairing existing damage (other than what is corrected as an unintentional side effect of typical improvements)
- You may be allowed to “pay the difference” for an “Upgrade” on certain items (such as asking for a more decorative door style, replacing a Sliding Glass Door with French Doors, or adding tinted glass or decorative grill patterns to the new windows) where the program agrees such upgrades are feasible.

*** Please note that adding air conditioning to the heating system is no longer offered by the RSI Program (even as an “Upgrade)

10. My property is currently on the waiting list. When can I expect the process to begin?

The City is doing everything possible to begin initial design work for each home as quickly as possible, unfortunately it is often too difficult to offer accurate estimates.

The City expects to complete construction on as many homes as funding will allow, at a rate of approximately 300 homes each year.

As of September 2011, the City is working on completing designs for approximately 360 homes for which design work has been stalled. The City is working to have the construction on these homes completed in 2012. The City anticipates starting design work for approximately 300 other homes on the waiting list in 2012, with the expectation of construction in 2013. To see where your home is on the waiting list, please contact the Program’s Property Owner Coordinator, Patricia Harada-Au at pau@elsegundo.org or (310) 524-2377

For all other inquiries, please contact the RSI Office at (310) 524-2352