



nycproductionsound.com

Location Scout Checklist

Sound Department Edition

- ☐ **HVAC** – Can heating, air conditioning, and/or ventilation systems be deactivated?

- ☐ **Refrigerators / Freezers / Appliances / etc.**
If it makes noise, then the sound department can hear it too. Can the devices or appliances found at the location be turned off or moved?

- ☐ **Reverberation “echo”** – Does the sound bounce around or sound “echoey” when people speak? A quick test for this is to clap loudly and listen to see if the sound bounces back. Avoid rooms with an abundance of hard flat surfaces if possible (marble, tile, concrete, bare walls, etc.).

- ☐ **Floor Material** – Are the floors carpeted or made of a hard material (concrete, tile, wood, etc.)? If floors are made of the latter material, can carpets be used?

Does the floor creak when people walk across it?

- ❑ **Windows and Doors** - Do the windows and doors at the location seal properly? Improperly sealed doors and windows not only hurt your heating bill, but they also allow unwanted sound to enter the filming location.

Make sure the set can be cabled by electric in a manner that allows all windows and doors to fully shut.

- ❑ **Roofing Material** - Avoid tin / metal roofs especially during rainy season!

- ❑ **Filming at an Active Business** - If possible try and film during non business hours. If not possible, ask the place of business for a block of silence to capture the necessary dialogue.

- ❑ **Neighbors** - Are there neighbors located above, below, or next to the filming location? If so, does their presence create noise problems? (construction, loud hobbies, business, music, etc.)

- ❑ **Construction and Maintenance** - Is there construction or maintenance work scheduled in or around the filming location? Pre placed orange cones might be a clue as to future work. If filming somewhere with a yard always ask if there is any yard work scheduled.

Leaf blowers and lawnmowers are the natural predator of the sound department!

❑ **Background Music** - Does the location have background music playing? If so, can this music be turned off during filming?

❑ **Proximity to Busy Transit Areas** - Is the location near any busy streets, airports, interstates, trains, or subway lines? If so, consider choosing a low traffic location instead.

Avoid filming near active factories or loading docks for the same reason.