

Session Prep Checklist & Etiquette

What to expect & house rules at pal.audio

HELLO AND WELCOME 🙌

pal.audio is a professional vocal recording studio in Grand Rapids, Michigan for artists who take themselves and their art seriously. If you're reading this, it means you've either booked a session (and we're stoked to get your project rollin') or you're evaluating studios in the GR area (we're also stoked that you're considering us).

This doc's purpose is to give you an idea of what to expect in a session with us, and what we expect from you as an artist.

ABOUT US

The studio at pal.audio is equipped with pro-grade gear and a professionally treated sonic environment designed to deliver crystal clear vocals, no matter the genre. The studio has been purposefully designed to be a safe, relaxing, and creative space for artists to tap into their creativity with zero judgment or concern.

Whether you already have a clear vision for your project or want feedback and suggestions to elevate your music, we have you covered either way. Just let us know.



WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU

pal.audio is a home studio, meaning that at the end of the day, we live here. That means we expect you to treat the space (our home) with respect. Similar to other industry studios, our space has full video security to ensure our gear, our safety, and that of our clients. We have a zero-tolerance policy and reserve the right to ask artists who choose not to respect our rules to leave, or to involve the law as a last resort if necessary.

Zero tolerance s*: you're banned**

1. Absolutely no guns or weapons. Law enforcement will be called *immediately*.
2. Absolutely no hard drugs or alcohol. Weed and cigs are fine to smoke outside.
3. For the creative integrity of the session, **ONLY** the recording artist is allowed at the session. All others will be asked to leave.
4. Disrespect toward or threatening of our engineers.

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WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU

What's cool

- Communicate! We have thick skin, so if you have an opinion or preference, we encourage you to express it. We want you to feel comfortable in the space, free to create and experiment with your sound, and to make you sound GREAT.
- Help yourself to tea, coffee, or water. Hydration and caffeine are crucial to having a great vocal session and staying energized.
- If you have beats already, send them along with their keys and BPMs before your session so we can get started as soon as you arrive.
- Come prepared, and have a gameplan. We're only as successful as the roadmap of the project, so while we can make suggestions, ultimately, you're in control of the direction you want to go.

If you have any other questions, send us an email at pal.audio.studios@gmail.com, or shoot us a DM on socials. We're happy to help!



HOW TO HAVE A GREAT FIRST SESSION

Want to have a kickass session? Take a look at this quick list.

- **Have a gameplan** - to us, this means the artist has a general idea of the order of songs they want to tackle, the sound they want to achieve, and what they want to get out of their music (touring, just releasing for fun, etc.). This helps us to prioritize and gives us ideas of how to get the most out of your time and voice.
- **Help us help you** - if you have instrumentals you want to use for your session, great! Send them to us so we can have the session ready for you before you arrive. We need the BPM (beats per minute) and the key of the instrumental. Bonus points if you leased them.

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- **This actually should be #1, but take yourself seriously** - we only work with artists who are serious about their craft. Music is a beautiful part of life, and we want to represent artists' visions to the height of their imagination. Whether or not it's just for fun, or you have dreams of performing around the world, you owe it to yourself to take your craft seriously. It matters, and you can hear the difference.
- **Challenge yourself, keep an open mind, and have fun** - creating art is supposed to be FUN. Every artist hits speedbumps, so don't get down on yourself if you happen to have an "off" session. It happens to literally everyone. Shake it off, and try again. If you get stuck, relax, we're here to help and are happy to give suggestions or feedback if you want.

SESSION PREP CHECKLIST

Week before session:

- \$50 deposit (hourly) or LP, EP, or album project paid
- All beats and/or stems sent with their keys and BPMs to pal.audio.studios@gmail.com
- In case of conflict:* communication with pal.audio more than 24 hours prior to session to refund deposit.

****Note:** we understand life happens, and we don't expect some emergencies. If this should happen under 24 hours of your session, we're happy to honor a refund (ex: family event, car trouble, called in, etc.).

Day of session:

- Studio address
- Water or tea for vocals, and something to eat
- Vocal warm up (hum, practice songs, vocal sirens, etc.)
- Phone/laptop chargers