

Neighbourhood Noise Information Guide

The *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* specify allowable sound levels that should not be exceeded.

These sound levels vary dependant on the time of the day and the day of the week. Noise can be described as unwanted sound and may be considered unreasonable when it exceeds these sound levels.

Under the *Environmental Protection Act* it is an offence to create unreasonable noise and regulations made under the Act allow for different maximum levels of noise at certain times depending on when it is most likely to be a nuisance.

For example loud noise late at night or very early in the morning is more likely to be unreasonable than noise during the day.

If you are concerned about unwanted noise, the first step is to locate the noise source. If a neighbour is creating the noise, all that may be required to resolve the matter is a friendly approach towards your neighbour. However, if you cannot resolve the matter or feel uncomfortable approaching your neighbour, please contact either:

- a. 24 hour Police Assistance 131 444 for one off events such as loud parties.
- b. The City of Armadale 9394 5000 for ongoing or regular events.

Specified Equipment Used In Residential Premises

What is Specified Equipment?

Some types of noisy equipment used in residential premises are able to exceed allowable noise levels provided they are used in a reasonable manner for no more than two hours per day. They include any equipment that requires the constant attendance of an operator for normal use, such as power tools, lawn mowers and pool cleaners.

The use of power tools is inherently noisy but is allowed provided the equipment is in good working order and compatible with the work being undertaken.

If using a static unit such as a brick saw or compressor it is advisable to position it away from your neighbours living and sleeping areas.

When can specified equipment be used?

Specified equipment may be used for no more than two hours per day (or one hour per day for musical instruments) and only between:

- 7am and 7pm Monday to Saturday
- 9am and 7pm on a Sunday or public holidays.

The equipment must be used in a reasonable manner and the noise emitted must not unreasonably interfere with the health, welfare, convenience, comfort or amenity of an occupier of premises receiving the noise. Whether or not the noise emission unreasonably interferes is up to the discretion of the Environmental Health Officer.

Noise emitted from specified equipment outside of these hours must meet the assigned levels. To judge whether a noise emission exceeds the assigned levels, as a general rule, if you can hear the noise past your property boundary, it exceeds the assigned levels.

Do You Need Further Information?

Should you require any further information regarding neighbourhood noise, visit the City's website or contact one of the City's Environmental Health Officers.

Please note this information sheet is intended as a guide only.

Should you wish to view a copy of the relevant legislation, the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*, visit the State Law Publishers website www.slp.wa.gov.au.