

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. 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.

Intruder Alarms

Each year numerous complaints about audible alarms are received with the majority being falsely activated due to incorrect installation or inferior design. These alarms cause significant annoyance due to the high noise levels emitted.

How can I reduce the disturbance caused by my security system being falsely activated?

To reduce the disturbance to the neighbourhood from your security system you can:

- Ensure you are familiar with your alarm system and can operate it correctly.
- Keep your alarm system in good working order, serviced yearly.
- Choose a silent or monitored alarm instead of an audible system.
- Minimise the risk of alarm being triggered from external factors by:
 - closing windows and doors
 - keeping pets outside
 - removing trees and shrubs away from windows/ doors
 - eliminating vermin and insects.
- Ensure a licensed security agent installs your intruder alarm. Your alarm should:
 - have power backup
 - be located to minimise damage or interference
 - limit duration of the siren to five to 10 minutes
 - limit sound level of external siren to 90 dB (A), 3 metres from perimeter of building
 - program to lock out any of the sensors that have triggered so they don't re-trigger.

Neighbourhood Noise Information Guide (*continued*)

What powers do the Police have?

The *Environmental Protection Act 1986* gives police the power to silence audible alarms by taking whatever steps are necessary, if the alarm has been sounding for 30 minutes or more. In these situations, an alarm technician is called out to disconnect the alarm. The Department of Environment and Regulation may then recover these costs. If the alarm continues to sound regularly for short periods of time, the City can be contacted to follow the issue with the owner and ensure the problem is rectified.

Other Household Equipment

Other household equipment such as swimming pool pumps and refrigerators can also cause annoyance and must be operated in compliance with permitted noise levels. Contact the City's Health Service if you require additional information.

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.

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