

Noise Pollution Noise Nuisance

Noise from many activities or equipment may disturb neighbours, disrupt their sleep and interfere with daily activities. If loud enough, noise can also affect their health. This fact sheet may help you to reduce noise and meet legal requirements.

Be a good neighbour

Take the time to talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns and seek suggestions about solving any noise problems. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

The law

Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act* includes requirements for noise nuisances. Council is legally required to enforce these limits. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and further complaints are made, Council will investigate and may issue a Direction Notice. The notice details the offence, and gives a time-frame for the problem to be rectified. Non-compliance may result in a fine.

The criteria

When investigating a noise complaint, Council will consider:

- The type of noise
- The amount of noise
- The duration, rate and type of noise
- The environment and the potential impact
- Views of other neighbours or complainants
- Other relevant criteria

Ways to reduce noise

✓ Limit the hours of use

Talk to neighbours about when the noise disturbs them. Most people are concerned about noise at night or early in the morning when they are trying to sleep.

✓ Select location carefully

Carry out the noisy activity away from neighbours and sensitive areas, such as in a garage or shed.

✓ Choose quiet equipment

Replacing noisy equipment with a quieter or smaller model may help solve the problem.

✓ Undertake regular maintenance

Regular maintenance of equipment will decrease noise and improve the effectiveness of equipment. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

✓ Install fences or barriers

Consider installing a solid fence without gaps, this can help reduce noise levels.

✓ Consider an acoustic enclosure

Some fixed equipment, such as vacuuming equipment can be enclosed in a wooden box with an absorbent lining and adequate ventilation. This can effectively reduce noise. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

✓ Modifications

Sometimes modifications can be made to the activity or equipment to reduce noise. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

✓ Alternatives

In some circumstances, alternative activities or equipment may be effective in producing less noise. Consider carrying out the activity inside or at another location.

✓ Default Noise standards

Some types of noise have specific noise standards, please refer to the Noise Pollution Standards fact sheet.

For more information, contact Council's Customer Service Centre or visit our website.