

Noise nuisance

Noise from 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

Talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they have and ask them for suggestions about solving problems. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

The law

The *Environmental Protection Act* includes controls for noise nuisances. Council of the City of Gold Coast (Council) is legally required to enforce these controls. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and further complaints are made, an investigation will be carried out.

If the noise is determined to be a nuisance, Council may issue the offender with a Direction Notice. This notice will detail the offence and the time frame to resolve the problem. Non-compliance may result in an on-the-spot fine to the value of 15 penalty units (for an individual) or 75 penalty units (for a corporation). See the City website for information about penalty unit values.

The criteria

When investigating a noise complaint, Council will consider:

- 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 you can reduce noise

Limit 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.

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

A solid fence with no gaps can reduce noise levels.

Consider an acoustic enclosure

Some fixed equipment, such as compressors and vacuum 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.

For more information

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