

NOISE NUISANCE – RESIDENTIAL DEVICES

Noise from power tools and other regulated devices may disturb neighbours, disrupt sleep and interfere with normal daily activities. If loud enough, it can affect health. This fact sheet can help you to reduce noise and meet legal requirements.

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* sets noise limits for residential areas

REGULATED DEVICES

- compressors and generators
- ducted vacuuming systems
- grass cutters, such as lawnmowers and edge cutters
- impacting tools, such as hammers and nail guns
- leaf blowers and mulchers
- oxyacetylene burners
- electrical, mechanical or pneumatic power tools, such as chainsaws, drills and sanders.

Noise can be made by regulated devices at premises between the following hours:

- 7am to 7pm – on a business day or Saturday
- 8am to 7pm – on any other day.

BUILDING SITE

Noise from a building site, owner builders or building contractors altering, maintaining or demolishing a building is:

- Permitted Mon-Sat 6.30am to 6.30pm
- Not permitted Sundays & public holidays

SWIMMING POOL PUMP

A pump cannot be used between:

- 10.00pm and 7.00am if it makes an audible noise
- 7.00am and 7.00pm if more than 5dBA above background
- 7.00pm and 10.00pm if above 3dBA above background, .

AIRCONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION

Aircon cannot be used between:

- 10:00pm and 7:00am if it makes a noise of more than 3dB(A) above background
- 7:00am and 10:00pm if it makes a noise of more than 5dB(A) above background

POWER BOAT ENGINES

Power boat engine cannot be used between:

- Monday – Saturday 7.00am to 7.00pm
- Sundays & Public Holidays 8.00am to 6.30pm



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they have and seek suggestions to resolve problems. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

THE LAW

Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act 1994* includes noise limits for regulated devices and Council is legally required to enforce these limits. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and complaints continue, Council will investigate. If a regulated device exceeds noise limits, Council may issue a fine to the value of 15 penalty units (individual) or 75 penalty units (corporation).

WAYS TO REDUCE NOISE

Limit hours of use

Ask neighbours which times noise will particularly disturb them.

Select equipment carefully

When purchasing equipment, consider the noise level or use alternatives, such as:

- sweep instead of using a leaf blower
- compost instead of mulching
- use electric powered devices instead of petrol engines.

Consider location

Complete work indoors or in a work shed if possible. Close windows and doors to reduce noise levels and consider incorporating noise reduction measures into your workshop.

Maintain equipment

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

Use acoustic enclosures

Some fixed equipment can be enclosed in a wooden box with an absorbent lining and adequate ventilation to reduce noise. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

Modifications might help

Consider whether modifications, such as mufflers can be fitted to engine-powered equipment. Contact the manufacturer for advice.

Install a fence or barrier

A solid fence with no gaps can help reduce noise levels

Further Information

For further information contact Council at 1300 763 903 or email enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au