

What is noise?

Noise can be best described as unwanted sound. It can originate from numerous sources, such as commercial and industrial activities, machinery, swimming pools and other recreational influences, such as amplified music.

How can noise affect my health?

Exposure to constant noise at high levels for extended periods may cause permanent damage to people's hearing and cause irritability.

Noise during certain times can effect sleeping patterns and result in loss of sleep, which can lead indirectly to health impacts. The majority of noise complaints during night time relate to loud music from parties, swimming pool pumps, air conditioners and machinery.

How can I resolve or minimise neighbourhood noise problems?

Noise levels and the impact of noise can vary depending on the location of your house and the source of the noise. The following measures can be taken by owners / occupiers to reduce the impact of noise on neighbouring properties:-

- Give prior warning in writing to neighbours about parties and / or social gatherings, which may have an affect on level of noise. This gives neighbours time to accommodate your needs.
- Only operate outside power tools, including lawn mowers and edgers for a maximum of **two (2) hours per day** and only as often as is reasonable, between the hours of:
 - 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Saturdays
 - 9 am to 7 pm Sundays and Public Holidays
- Musical instruments should not be played in practice for **more than one hour in any day** and only between the hours of:
 - 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Saturdays
 - 9 am to 7 pm Sundays and Public Holidays
- Ensure your car, truck, motorcycle and lawn mowers have effective mufflers fitted.
- Shut windows and doors when playing music inside.
- Avoid operating **pool pumps** outside the hours of:
 - 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Saturdays
 - 9 am to 7 pm Sundays and Public Holidays
- Avoid operating **bores** outside the hours of:
 - 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Saturdays
 - 9 am to 7 pm Sundays and Public Holidays
- Ensure that when purchasing an **air conditioning unit** that its location will not cause annoyance to neighbours. Air conditioner noise must comply with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997. Ask the Installer for confirmation of this.

What can I do about commercial / industrial noise?

Commercial and industrial noise can vary from the construction of new homes to the manufacturing of products or operation of equipment or machinery.

The City of Rockingham has attempted to group commercial / industrial areas together to reduce the impact on residential areas. Commercial / industrial areas still have restrictions on noise pollution.

How do I seek assistance at night?

The City's Health Services provides an after-hours service, however, noise officers will only attend when available and when the complaint was initially made in writing to Health Services. Any noise concern, which you believe requires immediate attention, **eg** party noise, can be dealt with by the Police. All Police Officers are authorised to act under the Environmental Protection Act in relation to noise. The City's Health Officers are not trained or equipped to deal with the problems arising from noisy parties and will not attend.

You can also contact the City's 24-hour Security number to advise the noise problem you are experiencing - **ie 1300 657 123**.

How can I make an official complaint about noise pollution?

The City's Health Services investigates all noise complaints. To respond to your concerns we request that all complaints are lodged **in writing**. The correspondence should detail what sort of noise is of concern, how frequently the noise occurs, at what time of day the noise most frequently occurs and where the noise source is situated. The City also has a Noise Complaint Form, which can be downloaded from our Webpage, filled out at the counter or sent out to your home address.

What legislation governs noise?

The Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 are the prescribed regulations for noise under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The regulations deal with noise passing from one premises to another. The regulations **do not cover** the propulsion and braking systems of vehicles travelling on roads, aircraft, trains or emergency warning devices, which are required under other laws. The regulations are situated around two distinct strategies, Assigned Noise Levels and unreasonable noise.

Noise sources, such as air conditioners and bore pumps are examples of noise, which are governed by the Assigned Noise Levels, shown below:

Type of Premises Receiving Noise	Time of Day	Assigned Level (dB)		
		L _{A10}	L _{A1}	L _{Amax}
Noise sensitive premises at locations within 15m of a building directly associated with a noise sensitive use.	7 am - 7 pm Monday - Saturday	45+ Influencing Factor	55+ Influencing Factor	65+ Influencing Factor
	9 am - 7 pm Sunday & P/holidays	40+ Influencing Factor	50+ Influencing Factor	65+ Influencing Factor
	7 pm - 10 pm All Days	40+ Influencing Factor	50+ Influencing Factor	55+ Influencing Factor
	10 pm on any day to 7 am Monday - Sat. & 9 am Sunday and Public holidays.	35+ Influencing Factor	45+ Influencing Factor	55+ Influencing Factor
(To view the complete Assigned Levels for commercial and industrial premises, see Table 1 in Environmental Protection Noise (Regulations) 1997)				

For further details, please contact:-

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