

Noise can best be described as unwanted sound. It can originate from numerous sources, such as commercial and industrial activities, machinery, air conditioners, bore and swimming pool pumps and other recreational influences such as musical instruments and amplified music.

These types of environmental noise are governed by the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (the Regulations)* which deal with noise passing from one premises to another.

*The Regulations* set 'assigned' or allowable noise levels for noise received at various types of premises (noise sensitive, commercial or industrial) however, provision is made in *the Regulations* for special cases where noise emissions may not be required to meet the assigned levels.

Some of the **special cases** are:

- Community activities – spectators cheering at sporting events, fairs or fetes for example
- Construction sites – provided the work is carried out between 7am and 7pm on any day which is not a Sunday or public holiday
- Certain equipment used on residential premises – provided the equipment is used in a reasonable manner and the times and length of time the equipment is used does not unreasonably interfere with neighbours.

There are also some noise sources that the City **does not deal with** such as:

- noise from traffic on roads, trains, vessels or aircraft
- noise from children playing and people talking or laughing at residential premises or in community places
- antisocial behaviour – yelling, shouting or abusive language, which should be referred to the WA Police – Rockingham Police – 9528 8000

## Minimising nuisance noise emissions

The most common complaints the City receives in regards to nuisance noise emissions are indicated below as well as measures you can take to assist in minimising any noise nuisance to your neighbours.

Amplified music:

- Position stereos, jukeboxes and speakers in a way that reduces the noise impact on neighbours
- Turn the bass level down
- Avoid outdoor speakers
- If having a one-off party, be considerate of neighbours and turn music down to a quiet level at midnight.

Equipment used on residential premises (lawn mowers, tools, musical instruments for example):

- Only operate tools, including lawn mowers and edgers for a maximum of **two (2) hours in any day** and only as often as is reasonable
- Musical instruments should not be played in practice for **more than one (1) hour in any day**
- Only use the equipment between the following times:
  - - 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Saturdays
  - - 9 am to 7 pm Sundays and Public Holidays

Pool pumps, pool cleaners and bores:

- Ensure your pumps, cleaners and bores are serviced and maintained in good working order
- Only operate the pool pumps and cleaners for the length of time required to maintain the pool
- Limit operating times to
  - - 7 am to 7 pm Monday to Saturdays
  - - 9 am to 7 pm Sundays and Public Holidays

Air conditioners

- 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.

Further information in regards to these types of noise emissions can be found in the related information links below.

### **Disturbed by ongoing noise?**

If you are being annoyed by an ongoing noise emission, you may find it helpful to take one or more of the following steps:

- Speak to the person producing the noise to make them aware of your concerns
- See whether you can come to an agreement on the time of day at which the equipment is used, or for how long it is used
- If it is an ongoing noise annoyance, you may lodge a complaint with the City's Health Services, via the email or postal address below

For the City to determine whether the noise emissions are unreasonable, the following information is required from the complainant:

- The location and type of noise emission;
- The frequency of the noise emissions – how often it is occurring (hourly, daily, weekly etc);
- The length of time the noise is emitted – how long it goes for (minutes, hours);
- The volume of the emissions;
- The time of day the noise is emitted; and
- How the noise is impacting the complainant

### **Related information**

[Residential equipment noise guidelines](#)

[Air conditioner noise information for purchasers](#)

[Construction site noise guidelines](#)

[Stereo music noise guidelines](#)

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