

# FACT SHEET

## NEIGHBOURHOOD NOISE

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Most of us will have been disturbed at some time by neighbourhood noise and there are probably occasions when we have been responsible for causing the disturbance. Current trends towards smaller block sizes in residential areas have increased the probability of producing noise that may affect others.

### SO WHAT IS NOISE?

Noise is unwanted or unpleasant sound. Noise can disrupt people's lives, causing loss of sleep, interference to activities and emotional stress. Assigned noise levels are set out in the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* to ensure that noise from premises is kept to acceptable levels for other neighbouring properties.

As a guide, noise, clearly audible at the boundary of a property, may cause a disturbance and may exceed assigned noise levels. However, subject to condition, there are certain activities **exempted** by noise legislation.

*Disruptive or abusive behavior including yelling, shouting, fighting, damage of property should be reported to the Police on 131 444 (000 for all emergencies).*

### BARKING DOGS

If you are concerned about noise from barking dogs, please contact the City's [Community Ranger Services](#) (during business hours only).

### EQUIPMENT USED ON RESIDENTIAL PREMISES

Specified equipment is defined as "any equipment that requires the constant presence of an operator e.g. lawn mower or power tools." Specified equipment may only be used between **7.00am - 7.00pm Monday to Saturday** and 9.00am - 7.00pm Sunday and Public Holidays.

Specified equipment are not to be used for more than **2 hours** (accumulative amount) per day. Musical instruments are not to be used for more than **1 hour** (accumulative amount) per day.

### CONSTRUCTION SITE NOISE

Construction work can only be carried out between **7.00am - 7.00pm Monday to Saturday**. Work at all other times requires approval granted by the City.

### AIR CONDITIONERS

Noise regulations may prevent your air conditioner from being used if inappropriately selected, installed or located. Air conditioners should be located as far away as possible from neighbours bedrooms and outdoor recreation areas.

## AMPLIFIED MUSIC

In general, music that is clearly audible at the boundary of a property may likely be regarded as unreasonable. Allowable levels significantly reduce **after 10pm – every night**, and as such music should be kept to a minimum (no bass at all).

## WHAT ABOUT PARTIES?

Music noise emitted from a party will generally exceed the assigned noise level.

Neighbours will in most cases tolerate “one-off parties” if they have been notified in advance of the date of the party (neighbours may wish to make alternative arrangements), the time the party may finish and a valid phone number to ring if the music gets too loud.

Neighbours can still lodge a complaint with the Police (after-hours) and/ or the City (during business hours) as they have the power to enforce the Noise Regulations.

*For issues relating to Department of Communities properties, please report to the **Disruptive Behaviour Team** by calling 1300 597 076 or via the following link:*  
<http://www.housing.wa.gov.au/contactus/disruptivebehaviour/Pages/default.aspx>

## REPORTING A NOISE COMPLAINT

If noise is unreasonable, identify the specific noise source. Once confirmed, the most appropriate thing would be to discuss the matter directly with the owner/ occupier that the noise source emanates from.

If the situation does not change, contact the City’s Environmental Health Services in writing to [mailbag@ckb.wa.gov.au](mailto:mailbag@ckb.wa.gov.au) including the date, time, nature and duration of the noise. To help the Officer deal with the issue, complete a [Noise Log Sheets](#) for approximately two weeks, to verify your claim.

An Authorised Officer may visit the owner/occupier of the property to advise them of the complaint and determine if it is noise. Resolving the issue through consensus and cooperation is the most desirable outcome.

If further complaints are received by the City, Officer(s) may take further action:

1. Issue of an infringement notice (\$250 for a first offence and \$500 for subsequent offences);
2. Seizure for up to 12 months of equipment contributing to unreasonable noise;
3. Legal action under section 79(1) *Environmental Protection Act 1986* through the courts, which carries a penalty up to \$5000 for breaches of the Act; and
4. Service of an Environmental Protection Notice (EPN) or a Noise Abatement Direction (NAD). maximum penalty for non-compliance with the requirements of a Noise Abatement Direction is \$25,000 and for an Environmental Protection Notice is \$62,500 for an individual and \$125,000 for a body corporate. In addition, if a breach of the Environmental Protection Act is intentional or criminally negligent, the maximum penalty rises to \$250,000 for an individual and \$500,000 for a body corporate.