

Noise Pollution Standards

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 and meet legal requirements. Refer to Council's general noise nuisance fact sheet for other noise issues.

Category	Prohibited Times & Noise Criteria
Building works (holder of a QBCC licence)	Must not carry out building work, if the noise is audible: a) at any time, on a Sunday or public holiday; or b) before 6:30am or after 6:30pm, on a Saturday or a business day.
Regulated devices (lawn mower, power tools, generators)	Must not use, if the noise is audible: a) before 8am or after 7pm on a Sunday or public holiday; or b) before 7am or after 7pm on a Saturday or a business day.
Electrical, mechanical or pneumatic pumps (including pool and spa pumps)	Must not use or permit the use of: a) before 7am or after 10pm on any day, if the noise is audible; or b) from 7am to 7pm on any day, if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background; or c) from 7pm to 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above background.
Air conditioning equipment	Must not use or permit the use of: a) from 7am to 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background noise levels; or b) before 7am or after 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above background.
Refrigeration equipment	Must not use or permit the use of: a) before 7am or after 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above background; or b) from 7am to 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background noise levels.
Indoor venues	Must not use or permit the use of: a) before 7am on any day, if the noise is audible; or b) from 7am to 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 5dB(A) above background; or c) from 10pm to midnight, if the noise is more than 3dB(A) above the background level.
Open air events	Must not use or permit the use of: a) before 7am on any day, if the noise is audible; or b) from 7am to 10pm on any day, if the noise is more than 70dB(A); or c) from 10pm to midnight, if the use causes noise of more than the lesser of 50dB(A) or 10dB(A) above the background level.

Category	Prohibited Times & Noise Criteria
Amplifier devices (other than at an indoor venue or open air event)	Must not use or permit the use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) from 7am to 10pm on a business day or any other day from 8am to 6pm, if the noise is more than 10dB(A) above background level; or b) before 7am or after 10pm on a business day; or c) before 8am or after 6pm on any other day.
Power boat/ Jet ski engine	Must not use or permit the use of, if the noise is audible: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) before 8am or after 6:30pm on a Sunday or public holiday; or b) before 7am or after 7pm on a Saturday or business day. Please note a time limit of two continuous minutes applies.

What Council will do

To respond to a complaint Council will require your name and contact details, an address for the location of the alleged nuisance, and detailed information on the nature of the nuisance. Council will assess the nature of the complaint to decide the course of action.

When a complaint is received, Council may contact both parties to inform them of the relevant provisions of the legislation and provide information on the relevant nuisance in an attempt to resolve the issue. The complainant's identity will remain confidential in any correspondence from Council. You may be required to complete a noise nuisance log sheet to record details of the time, duration, level of noise and how it impacts you.

If the nuisance persists, it is expected that you both take some steps to resolve the issue before involving Council again. Talking with your neighbours about your concerns is the best way to resolve any recurring issues.

If further nuisance complaints are received, Council may undertake an investigation under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. The investigation includes consideration of the time of nuisance, how long the nuisance lasts, the environmental values of the area, the impact on the environment and the views of the complainants, the respondents and neighbours.

The responsible person can dispute the complaint, as they have the right to have the matter heard before the Court. If this occurs, the complainant will be required to supply evidence in person. A more detailed statement or affidavit may be requested, as Council must be satisfied that evidence is available to support any legal action commenced. So talk it out with your neighbour and try to resolve the issue amicably, if you are having a problem with a noise nuisance.

Noise that does not contravene a noise standard as listed above may still be an unlawful environmental nuisance dependent on the circumstances of the particular situation. Further information can be sourced at Councils Noise Pollution – Noise Nuisance fact sheet.

For more information, contact Council's Customer Service Centre on or visit our website.