

Noise Information

What is unreasonable noise

Most of us have been disturbed by noise on occasion and may even have been responsible for causing noise which affects our neighbours. With the current trend towards smaller block sizes the probability of producing noise that may affect others has increased.

The *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* (the Regulations) set limits depending on the time of day or night and/or day of the week. The Regulations do allow certain 'noisy' activities (as described below) to be carried out subject to strict conditions. Noise emitted in excess of the assigned noise levels or that is not in accordance with an exemption can be deemed to be unreasonable.

As a guide, noise which is clearly audible beyond the property boundary may exceed the limits, especially at night time and early mornings.

Equipment used on residential premises ('specified equipment')

Specified equipment is any equipment that requires the constant presence of an operator for normal use such as lawn mowers, power tools and some sporting equipment (ie basketballs).

The specified equipment must be used in a reasonable manner and the noise emitted must not unreasonably interfere with the health, welfare, convenience, comfort or amenity of an occupier of premises receiving the noise.

Determining whether a noise is unreasonable is at the discretion of the City of Mandurah's Environmental Health Officer. Specified equipment can be used in a reasonable manner when carried out between:

- 7am - 7pm Monday to Saturday
- 9am - 7pm Sundays and Public Holidays

Equipment that requires the constant presence of an operator e.g. lawn mower and power tools, may not be used for more than 2 hours per day.

Musical Instruments

The Noise Regulations provide exemptions for practice of musical instruments in a residential premises. This may be undertaken between:

- 7am - 7pm Monday to Saturday
- 9am - 7pm Sundays and Public Holidays

Musical instruments may not be used for more than 1 hour per day and the windows and doors should be closed.

Construction site noise

Work that creates noise on a construction site that exceeds the assigned levels is permitted under certain conditions between:

- 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday.

Work on Sundays, Public Holidays and at other times is only permitted under an approved noise management plan.

It should be noted that work which creates minimal noise is permitted outside these times such as workers arriving at site and unloading material or tools provided they are not creating unreasonable noise.

Air conditioner noise

The location of the air conditioner is an important factor in ensuring neighbours are not adversely affected by noise. Air conditioners should be located as far away as possible from neighbours bedrooms. When purchasing a new air conditioner, ask the installer if the quietest model has been selected and how they have calculated that the noise will comply with the Regulations.

Regular servicing of the equipment is important to reduce an increase in noise from normal wear and tear as the system begins to age.

Parties, amplified music and human behaviour

Music noise emitted from a party will generally exceed the permitted noise levels, especially after 10pm. Neighbours will in most cases tolerate 'one off parties' particularly if they have been advised of the following in advance;

1. The date of the party (neighbours may wish to make alternative arrangements and go out).
2. The time the music will be switched off or turned down (this indicates how long the situation has to be tolerated and when it will improve).
3. A phone number of party organiser to ring if the situation becomes unbearable.

It is also recommended the use of outdoor speakers be minimised, speakers be directed away from neighbours houses, keep bass component of music low, move the party indoors after 10pm, lower music volume and keep windows and doors closed.

Types of noise the City is not responsible to investigate

People noise: Noise from people playing, laughing, talking. Any antisocial behaviours such as yelling, shouting or abusive language should be referred to the Police.

Noise from vehicles on roads and trains: Noise from a vehicles on public roads and trains are exempt from the noise regulations. Noise from burnouts should be reported to the WA Police.

Security alarms: Police have the power to gain entry and deactivate house or car alarms if they have been emitting unreasonable noise for more than 30 minutes.

Thinking of you neighbours

You should attempt to resolve any disputes with a neighbour by talking and trying to reach a satisfactory solution. After all, you may be living alongside each other for years to come and it is in both your interests to be on reasonable terms.

Further Information

City of Mandurah Health Services (Ph: 9550 3810)

www.health@mandurah.wa.gov.au

WA Police Service (Ph: 131 444)

www.police.wa.gov.au

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

[Noise regulation publications](#)