



Fact Sheet - Residential Noise



Residential noise that occurs early in the morning, late at night, on weekends or public holidays can disturb neighbours, disrupt their sleep and interfere with their lifestyle.

This fact sheet includes information for owners, occupiers, builders and associated industries and is intended to help manage noise at residential premises to ensure compliance with the noise standards and emissions criteria under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

Talk to your neighbours

Talk to your neighbours in advance about activities that are planned where the resulting noise may affect them (i.e. repair work, building work etc.). Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

The law

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* prescribes noise standards for building work, regulated devices, pumps, air-conditioning equipment, refrigeration equipment and the operation of power boat engines on waterways and at premises.

Council is legally required to enforce these standards. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and a complaint is lodged with Council, Council Officers will investigate. Council may issue Direction Notices or on-the-spot fines if it has been determined that noise standards have, or are being, contravened.

A residential noise nuisance occurs if:

- Noise is emitted from an activity outside of the allowable hours outlined below and can be heard at an affected building.
- The level of noise exceeds the allowable limits when heard at an affected building.
- The frequency and/or duration of the noise is considered to be excessive.
- The tonality and pitch of noise is considered to be offensive.

It is important to note that whilst noise may be generated during the allowable times outlined below, it may still be deemed an unlawful nuisance if it is considered to be excessive (e.g. emitted for prolonged periods of time on a regular basis).

Regulated devices

The following times relate to the use of regulated devices such as generators, power tools, compressors, and lawn mowers.

The following times also apply to the use of regulated devices to perform general building/renovation activities around the home, where a building approval is not required. Additionally, fencing, landscaping, and constructing children's playhouses are generally not considered to be building works (exceptions apply) and the following times would apply for these activities.

Days	Times	Noise
Monday - Saturday	7am to 7pm	Permitted
Monday - Saturday	7pm to 7am	No audible noise permitted
Sundays and Public Holidays	8am to 7pm	Permitted
Sundays and Public Holidays	7pm to 8am	No audible noise permitted

Building Work

The following times relate to building activities that require a building approval and apply to builders, sub-contractors and other professions engaged to work for, or on behalf of, a builder.

A person must not carry out building work, including any associated work on a property under a current building approval, in a way that makes an audible noise outside the following permissible times:

Days	Times	Noise
Monday - Saturday	6.30am to 6.30pm	Permitted
Monday - Saturday	6.30pm to 6.30am	No audible noise permitted
Sundays and Public Holidays	N/A	No audible noise permitted

Air-conditioning equipment and refrigeration equipment

Air-conditioning equipment and refrigeration equipment is permitted to operate all day, every day.

However, noise emitted from these units must not exceed the following levels:

- Between 7am to 10pm – noise levels must not exceed 5dB(A) above the background noise level or
- Between 10pm to 7am – noise levels must not exceed 3dB(A) above the background noise level.

Power boats and jet skis – in waterways

This section relates to the use of power boats for sporting purposes, including water skiing, wake boarding or tobogganing/tube riding and use of jet skis for purposes other than fishing.

Permitted noise levels for power boats in waterways are:

Days	Times	Noise
Monday - Saturday	7am to 7pm	Permitted
Monday - Saturday	7pm to 7am	Permitted for no more than two continuous minutes at any one location (same building being affected)
Sundays and Public Holidays	8am to 6.30pm	Permitted
Sundays and Public Holidays	6.30pm to 8am	Permitted for no more than two continuous minutes at any one location (same building being affected)

Power boats and jet skis – on land (operating a boat engine at a premises)

This section relates to the use of power boat engines at a premises, including for the purpose of flushing the engine.

Permitted noise levels for power boats on land are:

Days	Times	Noise
Monday - Saturday	7am to 7pm	Permitted
Monday - Saturday	7pm to 7am	No audible noise permitted
Sundays and Public Holidays	8am to 6.30pm	Permitted
Sundays and Public Holidays	6.30pm to 8am	No audible noise permitted

Pumps

Pumps can be electrical, mechanical or pneumatic devices such as swimming and spa pool pumps, air pumps or heating/cooling pumps and noise must not exceed the following levels between:

Times	Noise
7am to 7pm on any day	5 decibels (A) above background noise level
7pm to 10pm on any day	3 decibels (A) above background noise level
10pm to 7am on any day	No audible noise permitted

Penalties

A person who causes an unlawful noise nuisance may be issued with a Direction Notice and/or an on-the-spot fine.

Noise nuisances dealt with by Queensland Police Service

Police Officers, pursuant to the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, regulate environmental nuisance caused by excessive noise that is emitted from a place by:

- A musical instrument.
- Televisions, stereos, gaming devices, security alarms and other similar devices.
- A motor vehicle other than a motor vehicle on a road (Note: noise from vehicles on roads is governed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads).
- A gathering of people for a meeting, party, celebration or similar occasion.

The Queensland Police Service also regulates:

- Noise emitted by a motorbike being driven on a place that is not a road (Note: vehicle noise on roads is governed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads).
- Noise emitted from within a motor vehicle on a road or in a public place (e.g. amplified music).

Contact your local Police Station for further advice.

Noise created by vehicles hooning on the road may be reported to the Hoon Hotline 13 46 66. The vehicle description, registration number and location need to be provided.

Noise from premises with a liquor licence

The Office of Liquor and Gaming and Regulation (OLGR) regulate noise emitted from premises with a liquor licence (i.e. pubs, clubs, hotels). To lodge a complaint with OLGR, telephone 13 74 68.

Noise from premises located in a Body Corporate Complex or Relocatable Home Park

Body Corporates and/or Park Operators have jurisdiction over environmental nuisances within their complex under either the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997* or the *Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003*.

For further information, please call Council's Environmental Health Section on 1300 79 49 29.



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