

Regulated devices

Noise from power tools and other regulated devices may disturb neighbours, disrupt sleep and interfere with normal daily activities. If loud enough, it can affect health. This fact sheet can help you to reduce noise and meet legal requirements.

Regulated devices

Regulated devices include:

- compressors and generators
- ducted vacuuming systems
- grass cutters, such as lawnmowers and edge cutters
- impacting tools, such as hammers and nail guns
- leaf blowers and mulchers
- oxyacetylene burners
- electrical, mechanical or pneumatic power tools, such as chainsaws, drills and sanders.

Note: These provisions do not apply to builders, owner builders or building contractors working on a building site. For information on requirements for builders, contact Council or read the building work noise fact sheet.

Be a good neighbour

Talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they have and seek suggestions to resolve problems. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

The law

Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act 1994* includes noise limits for regulated devices and Council is legally required to enforce these limits. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and complaints continue, Council will investigate. If a regulated device exceeds noise limits, Council may issue a fine to the value of 15 penalty units (individual) or 75 penalty units (corporation). Refer to the Local Government Toolbox website www.lgtoolbox.qld.gov.au for more information about penalty units.

Allowable noise limits

On-the-spot fines may be issued if noise can be clearly heard at premises between the following hours:

- 7pm to 7am – on a business day or Saturday
- 7pm to 8am – on any other day.

Ways to reduce noise

Limit hours of use

Ask neighbours which times noise will particularly disturb them.

Select equipment carefully

When purchasing equipment, consider the noise level or use alternatives, such as:

- sweep instead of using a leaf blower
- compost instead of mulching
- use electric powered devices instead of petrol engines.

Consider location

Complete work indoors or in a work shed if possible. Close windows and doors to reduce noise levels and consider incorporating noise reduction measures into your workshop.

Maintain equipment

Regular maintenance will decrease noise and improve the effectiveness of equipment. Contact the manufacturer for advice.

Use acoustic enclosures

Some fixed equipment can be enclosed in a wooden box with an absorbent lining and adequate ventilation to reduce noise. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

Modifications might help

Consider whether modifications, such as mufflers can be fitted to engine-powered equipment. Contact the manufacturer for advice.

Install a fence or barrier

A solid fence with no gaps can help reduce noise levels.

For more information on this topic, contact your local Council.