

Noise nuisance

Building work noise

Noise from building early in the morning, on weekends or public holidays can have negative impacts on a person's health and wellbeing. This fact sheet includes information for builders and owner-builders, but **does not** apply to home renovators.

The law

Council investigates noise nuisance complaints from building work noise and enforces noise limits under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

If building work noise exceeds the noise limits, Council may issue a fine to the value of 15 penalty units (individual) or 75 penalty units (corporation) a direction notice or prosecute.

Allowable noise limits

Fines may be issued if noise from building work can be clearly heard at a neighbouring property between the following hours:

- 6.30pm to 6.30am on a business day or Saturday
- at any time on any other day.

How to reduce noise

To help reduce building noise, you can:

- Limit work hours
- Select quieter equipment or use alternatives
- Carry out work as far away as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas such as bedroom windows
- Regularly service your equipment – lack of maintenance can cause higher noise levels
- Erect a solid fence or barrier
- Install an acoustic enclosure for fixed equipment such as compressors or vacuum equipment
- Modify equipment – discuss this option with the manufacturer or installer

If noisy work is planned, such as jack hammering and concrete cutting, discuss this with nearby residents beforehand. A sign on site or distribution of leaflets explaining the hours and duration of operation may prevent complaints.

Complaints

In most cases, the best way to resolve a noise issue is through polite and productive communication between yourself and the person causing the noise nuisance. If you haven't already spoken with the person about the issue, we strongly recommend you try this approach first.

You could also download the Environmental Nuisance letter from our [website](#), and place it in their letterbox. If you have concerns about approaching or entering communication, or these measures have proven ineffective, you can lodge a complaint with Council by:



Phone: (07) 5329 6500



Email: mail@noosa.qld.gov.au



Council Office: 9 Pelican Street, Tewantin

You will need to provide:

- your name, address and phone number (kept confidential)
- details of the noise emission, including source address and the date and time it starts

Council will send you additional information and a diary to complete and formalise the complaint. Correspondence will also be sent to your neighbour to advise them of the issue and requirements.