

Noise nuisance

Regulated devices

Noise from power tools and other regulated devices may disturb neighbours, disrupt sleep and interfere with normal daily activities. The information in this fact sheet does **not** apply to builders, owner builders or building contractors working on a building site.

The law

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

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

Regulated devices

- compressors and generators
- ducted vacuuming systems
- lawnmowers and edge cutters
- hammers and nail guns
- leaf blowers and mulchers
- oxyacetylene burners
- 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.

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.

How to reduce noise

Limit hours of operation

Find out what times neighbours are most disturbed by air-conditioner noise.

Select equipment carefully

Consider the noise level when purchasing equipment 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.

Install fences or barriers or an acoustic enclosure

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

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.