Noise nuisance

Noise from activities or equipment may disturb neighbours, disrupt their sleep and interfere with daily activities. If loud enough, noise can also affect their health. This fact sheet may help you to reduce noise and meet legal requirements.

Be a good neighbour
Talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they have and ask them for suggestions about solving problems. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

Ways you can reduce noise

Limit hours of use
Talk to neighbours about when the noise disturbs them. Most people are concerned about noise at night or early in the morning when they are trying to sleep.

Select location carefully
Carry out the noisy activity away from neighbours and sensitive areas, such as in a garage or shed.

Choose quiet equipment
Replacing noisy equipment with a quieter or smaller model may help solve the problem.

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

Install fences or barriers
A solid fence with no gaps can reduce noise levels.

Consider an acoustic enclosure
Some fixed equipment, such as compressors and vacuum equipment can be enclosed in a wooden box with an absorbent lining and adequate ventilation. This can effectively reduce noise. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

Modifications
Sometimes modifications can be made to the activity or equipment to reduce noise. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

Alternatives
In some circumstances, alternative activities or equipment may be effective in producing less noise. Consider carrying out the activity inside or at another location.

For more information
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