

Info Note: Noise Pollution and our Environment

What is noise?

Noise can be best described as unwanted sound. It can originate from numerous sources, such as commercial and industrial activities, machinery, swimming pools and other recreational influences, such as amplified music.

How can I minimise neighbourhood noise problems?

Noise levels and the impact of noise can vary depending on the location of your house and source of the noise. The following measures can be taken by owners/occupiers to reduce the impact of noise on neighbouring properties:-

Give prior warning in writing to neighbours about parties and/or social gatherings, which may have an effect on the level of noise. This gives neighbours time to accommodate your needs.

Only operate power tools, including lawn mowers and edgers, for a maximum of 2 hours per day and only as often as is reasonable, between the hours of:

7am to 7pm Monday to Saturdays

9am to 7pm Sundays and Public Holidays

Musical instruments should not be played in practice for more than one hour in any day and only between the hours of :

7am to 7pm Monday to Saturdays

9am to 7pm Sundays and Public Holidays

Ensure your car, truck, motorcycle and lawn mowers have effective mufflers fitted.

Shut windows and doors when playing music inside.

Avoid operating bores outside the hours of:

7am to 7pm Monday to Saturdays

9am to 7pm Sundays and Public Holidays

Ensure that when purchasing an air conditioning unit that its location will not cause annoyance to neighbours. Air conditioner noise must comply with the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997. Ask the installer for confirmation of this.

How do I resolve a Noise Problem?

If noise emissions become a problem and the special circumstances outlined above do not apply, the Council's Environmental Health Services may assist in resolving the matter. The first thing you need to do is locate the noise source. If a neighbour is creating the noise, the most appropriate action is to contact your neighbour and try to resolve it by speaking with them.

How can I make a complaint about noise pollution?

If you cannot resolve the matter or feel uncomfortable approaching your neighbour, please contact the Shire on 9526 1111 and ask for a Service Request Form (E12/1572) to be sent out. The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Health Services Section investigates all noise complaints in accordance with the Regulations and available resources. To respond to your concerns, we request that all complaints are lodged in writing on the Service Request Form. The form should detail the noise type, its location, frequency and the time of day the noise most often occurs. You will also be requested to keep a written log of the noise nuisance for one or two weeks depending upon the noise. You should only commence this log after you have lodged your Service Request Form with the Shire. All letters regarding noise concerns should be forwarded to the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

What happens when my Noise Investigation Request form is lodged?

After a Service Request Form is received, an Environmental Health Officer will investigate the matter. This normally involves approaching the owner/occupiers of the property where the noise is occurring to try to resolve the issue. All Service Request Forms lodged with the Shire will remain confidential, subject to freedom of information legislation, and usually issues can be resolved with this initial discussion. However, if noise continues to be a problem further action may be required, such as taking noise measurements and issuing written warnings, and you may be required to appear as a witness should legal action be required to resolve the matter.

Contact Us

Enquiries

Call: (08) 9526 1111

Fax: (08) 9525 5441

Email: info@sjshire.wa.gov.au

In Person

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale

6 Paterson Street, Mundijong WA 6123

Open Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm (closed public holidays)



www.sjshire.wa.gov.au



What Legislation governs noise?

The Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 are the prescribed standard for noise under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. The Regulations deal with noise passing from one premise to another. The Regulations do not cover

noise from registered vehicles travelling on roads, aircraft, trains or emergency warning devices, which are required under other laws. The Regulations are situated around two distinct strategies – Assigned Noise Levels and Unreasonable Noise.

Type of Noise	Definition & Examples	Regulations/Restrictions	Actions You Can Take
Construction Noise	<p>Defined by the noise Regulations as the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power tools. • Erection, installation alterations. • Repairs, maintenance • Cleaning, painting renewal. • Removal, excavation, dismantling and/or demolition. • Additions to any building or structure. <p>The unreasonable noise that may be emitted from a construction site can cause annoyance to surrounding residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work carried out between the hours of 7:00am to 7:00pm if:- • The work is carried out on Monday through to Saturday. • The work is carried out in accordance with Australian Standard 2436 – 1981 – Guide to Noise Control on Construction, Maintenance and Demolition sites; and • The equipment used is the quietest reasonably available. • Times can be varied where a noise management plan has been approved by the Shire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak to the Builders on the construction site to make them aware of your concerns. • Contact the building company who is managing the construction site and ask the building company to contact you once they have spoken to the workers on site. • If the annoyance caused by the construction noise continues, then you may contact the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Health Services section.
Musical Instruments	<p>Musical instruments are classified by the noise regulations as specified equipment, which is any equipment needing the constant presence of an operator for normal use, such as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drums. • Guitars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not more than one (1) hour in any day. • Between the hours of 7:00am to 7:00pm Monday to Saturday or 9:00am to 7:00pm Sunday and Public Holidays. • The noise does not unreasonably interfere with the health, comfort or convenience of an occupier of a premise receiving the noise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak to the person using the musical equipment to make them aware that it causes you annoyance. • It may be helpful to let the person know that it affects you, as they may not realize it causes you concern, and it gives them the opportunity to change their actions. • See whether or not you can come to an agreement on the time of the day at which the instrument is played,



			<p>and for how long it is used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the annoyance caused by the musical instrument causes you concern, you may lodge a written complaint with the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Health Services section.
Air Conditioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The regulations use a calculation procedure to determine the assigned allowable noise levels applicable to a particular premises receiving noise. This calculation takes into account the areas of land zoned for commercial and industrial use and the nature of roads within 450 metres of the premises.• Refrigerated.• Evaporative Coolers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For air conditioner noise the most stringent criteria complies at night, when from 10:00pm the allowable noise level is 35 dB(a) in most suburban areas. However, higher allowable noise levels could be expected during the day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advise your neighbour that the air conditioner is causing you some annoyance.• Speak to the person and discuss with them the possible relocation of the unit so that it does not emit an unreasonable level of noise.• If an evaporative cooler, some consideration could be made to purchasing an acoustic barrier designed by an acoustic consultant.• See whether or not you can come to an agreement on the time of the day at which the unit is on and how long it is to be used.• If the annoyance caused by the air conditioner causes you concern, you may lodge a written complaint with the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Health and Ranger Services.



Off Road Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural properties are noise sensitive premises under the Regulations.• Off-Road vehicles & motorcycles can cause annoyance to neighbours even on larger rural lots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm vehicles are exempt from the Regulations under certain conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss with your neighbours acceptable times for off road vehicles and motorcycle riding.• Ensure vehicle exhausts are as quiet as current standards require.
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