

Advisory Note - Steps to Reduce Noise



We all make noise but awareness is the key to making sure your noise does not cause a problem to your neighbours. Follow these simple tips on being a considerate neighbour and remember, excessive noise can make life a misery!

Entertainment

- Think about the volume of your TV, music system, car stereo and computer games. Set the volume and the bass at a reasonable level, or consider listening on a personal stereo or using headphones.
- Place speakers and the TV away from your neighbours walls and stand them on insulating material which can reduce the transmission of sound. If you play your own musical instrument, keep the volume down, windows shut and negotiate times to practice with your neighbours which will result in the least disturbance.

Your Home and Domestic Appliances

- Avoid slamming doors and running up and down stairs.
- If you have stripped or laminate flooring, make sure that you use sound insulating underlay and take off heavy shoes/boots.
- If you like to carry out housework early morning or late at night, think about the effect noisy appliances such as a Hoover, washing machine or lawn mower may have upon neighbours. Do not mow the lawn early morning and refrain from using noisy household appliances when neighbours may be resting, especially early morning and late at night.
- Make sure washing machines, dishwashers etc are away from party walls and on a carpet or mat to reduce vibration, especially if you live in a flat.

- When buying a new appliance consider the low noise option as some products have a noise rating.
- Consider noise from the garden. Think before installing features in your garden that make a noise – the splashing of a fountain or wind chimes may cause a disturbance at night.

Maintenance/DIY

- When you are going to carry out noisy maintenance/DIY talk to your neighbours, and explain the work you are undertaking and how long it may take.
- Do noisy jobs and operate noisy equipment when it will cause least disturbance, so avoid early morning and late at night.
- Where possible, carry out noisy outdoor jobs and car repairs in a garage.
- If you are employing builders, agree working times with them that will not annoy your neighbours or you.

Alarms

- Arrange for someone to have a key to your house and the alarm in the event of the alarm being accidentally activated when you're away from the property. Make sure your neighbours know where you or your nominated key holder can be contacted if the alarm is activated.
- Check that your house alarm is fitted with a 20 minute cut off device and ensure it is properly fitted and regularly maintained so that it does not go off accidentally.