



Keeping The Peace - practical advice on minimising noise

Environmental Health staff at Wychavon District Council can help and advise you about noise nuisance.

Types of noise nuisance

- Neighbour Noise
- Barking Dogs
- Shouting & Anti-Social Behaviour
- Loud Music
- Commercial Noise
- Industrial Noise
- Construction Noise
- Entertainment Noise
- Vehicle Alarms
- Intruder Alarms

Be considerate!

No house or flat is completely soundproof - everyone can expect some noise from their neighbours due to normal day to day activities. However, our capacity for making noise is increasing as technology advances and more and more complaints are being received about noise. We can all do our bit to reduce noise nuisance to others and be a considerate neighbour.

Stereos & TV

- Think about the volume, could it be disturbing your neighbours? Turn it down!
- Use headphones
- Move TV and stereo speakers away from your neighbour's walls.
- Do not attach speakers to neighbouring walls

Household chores

Avoid mowing the lawn, vacuuming or doing DIY at the crack of dawn, or late at night. You may be an early riser or a night owl - others may be trying to get some rest

Parties

- If you're planning a party, your neighbours are likely to be much more understanding if you warn them well in advance - you might even invite them
- Either way, don't ruin their evening - and encourage guests to be equally respectful

Dogs

- Dogs may bark because they are lonely.
- Constant barking or whining can be disturbing to your neighbours
- A well trained dog will not bark unnecessarily

Cars

- Don't play your car stereo loud as you won't hear emergency sirens, traffic.
- Make sure your music isn't disturbing others, especially when you're parked or waiting for someone
- Make sure your car alarm works properly

Alarms

- Ensure that you provide us with key-holder details for your alarm system so that they can be contacted should your intruder alarm sound when you are not home. (See contact details)
- Ensure that your alarm has a 20 minute cut off period and is regularly maintained to prevent problems.

Investigating complaints

If we receive a complaint about noise we are obliged by law to investigate it. This may include:

- Asking the complainants to note down all the times that they are being disturbed.
- Officers from this department undertaking visits to witness the disturbance.
- The use of noise recording equipment.
- If we are satisfied that the noise constitutes a Statutory Nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, an abatement notice will be served requiring you to stop the disturbance, and if this is not complied with, you could face a maximum fine of £5000 (domestic premises), or £20,000 (commercial / industrial premises).

So you've had a complaint made against you..... what next?

Contact your local Environmental Health Officer at:

**Environmental Protection Section, Environmental Services,
Civic Centre, Queen Elizabeth Drive, Pershore, WR10 1PT**

Telephone: 01386 565015 Fax: 01386 561826

Email: environmental.health@wychavon.gov.uk

Website: www.wychavon.gov.uk/es