

Noise – Musical instruments

Music can be one of life's great pleasures. However, musical instruments can produce quite loud noise and this can be disruptive for neighbours. We don't all have the same musical tastes and some practise sessions may be less than tuneful. We all want to live in a community in which we are free to pursue those hobbies and activities which enrich our lives. It simply requires a little consideration to ensure that musical instrument noise does not unreasonably interfere with the quiet enjoyment of other community members. In support of this, the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* (the Regulations) set out some basic requirements.

The Regulations

The Regulations provide that noisy musical instruments may be played:

- For not more than one hour per day
- Between 7am and 7pm Monday to Saturday and between 9am and 7pm on Sundays and Public Holidays

Instruments must at all times be played in a manner that:

- Is reasonable
- Does not interfere with health or amenity of neighbours

These allowances do not apply to amplified accompaniment or band practise.

This information is available in alternative formats upon request.

Tips for dealing with musical noise

Speak to the musician. Politely let them know that the noise is bothering you. They may not realise how far or how loudly the sound of their instrument carries. Ask them to take steps to muffle the noise of their instrument (see below for suggestions). Discuss possible alternative times or days that would be convenient for everyone.

Lodge a written complaint with the City of Subiaco's environmental health services. You can do this by completing a noise investigation request form, available on the City's website. Make sure you include the times and duration of the noise as well as much information as possible about the source of the noise, so that the City can investigate effectively.

Tips when playing a musical instrument

Maximise physical barriers to muffle the noise. Always play inside with doors and windows closed. Any additional insulation is helpful. Consider the gaps under doors and windows.

Use reasonable measures to minimise the noise such as practise pads for drum kits, turning down amplifiers and avoid playing as a band unless in a suitably sound proofed room.

Avoid playing at sensitive times, like late at night or early in the morning.

Be receptive to suggestions or requests from neighbours.

For further information, visit the City's website www.subiaco.wa.gov.au or contact Environmental Health Services on (08) 9237 9254 or city@subiaco.wa.gov.au