

Noise information sheet

Construction noise

Construction sites are noisy places and this noise can significantly affect the surrounding residents. However, it is possible to manage the impact with planning and consideration. The *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* (the Regulations) try to balance the needs of builders and their clients, and the needs of the community to enjoy a peaceful environment. This is done by regulating the hours and manner in which noisy work can be carried out.

The Regulations

The Regulations provide that:

- **Noisy work can be done between 7am and 7pm Monday to Saturday, excluding public holidays**
- **Construction sites must be quiet outside those hours UNLESS written approval is granted by the city and neighbours are notified in advance**

The Regulations work by setting maximum levels of noise that may be generated at different times and under different circumstances. These are referred to as the assigned levels. Between 7am to 7pm Monday to Saturday, noise caused by construction does not have to comply with the assigned levels as long as reasonable measures have been taken and the equipment used is the quietest reasonably available.

Outside these hours work can be undertaken, but any noise must not exceed the assigned levels. As these are very low during the evenings, on Sundays and public holidays, only the quietest of activities would comply. Painting and sweeping might be acceptable but the noise from the use of mechanical equipment, any banging, drilling or dropping materials is likely to exceed the assigned levels.

Music and radio noise is not considered to be construction noise and should not be clearly audible in surrounding properties at any time.

Under special circumstances builders can get approval to carry out construction work outside the regular hours. To do so they must apply for and have a written Noise Management Plan approved by the City of Subiaco. Builders must also give at least 24 hours' notice to the occupiers of premises likely to be affected by the noise.

Tips for dealing with noise from construction sites:

Contact the building company who is responsible for the construction. This information is required to be advertised on a sign on the site. Explain your concerns to the company and see if together you can arrive at a more satisfactory arrangement.

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 for builders:

Avoid early starts.

Locate noisy equipment away from the property boundary and keep music and stereo volume down.

Take complaints seriously and work constructively with nearby residents and businesses.