

Noise – Specified equipment

Specified equipment is the term used in the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (the Regulations) to refer to any noisy equipment that needs the constant presence of an operator for normal use. This includes items that might be necessary to maintain our homes or engage in recreation, such as lawn mowers, vacuum cleaners, power tools or even basketballs. These types of equipment can produce quite loud noise and this can be disruptive for neighbours. 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 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 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. The Regulations provide that the noise from specified equipment does not have to comply with those levels as long as the equipment is used:

- For no more than two (2) hours on any day
- Between **7am and 7pm Monday to Saturday**
- Between **9am and 7pm Sunday and public holidays**

Equipment must at all times be used in a manner that is reasonable and does not interfere with the health or amenity of neighbours.

This information is available in alternative formats upon request.

Tips for dealing with equipment noise

Speak to the person operating the equipment.

Politely let them know that the noise is bothering you. They may not realise how far or how loudly the sound of their activity carries. Ask them to take steps to muffle or block the noise of the equipment. Discuss possible alternative times or days that the equipment could be used.

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. Use equipment out of direct sightlines of neighbours, as physical obstacles also block some sound. If possible, use equipment inside or in a garage, with doors and windows closed.

Use reasonable measures to minimise the noise such as keeping equipment in good working order.

Avoid using noisy equipment 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