

# Noise Pollution Building Works

Building works early in the morning, on weekends or public holidays can disturb neighbours, disrupt their sleep, interfere with their normal daily activities and detrimentally affect health.

This fact sheet includes noise control information for builders and owner-builders, but does not apply to home renovators.

Please refer to council's Noise Pollution - Regulated devices factsheet for home renovation noise.



## The law

Council has obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to investigate complaints of nuisance noise from building work.

Depending on the outcome of its investigation (incorporating assessment of the impact of the noise emission and the availability of corroborating evidence), Council may commence enforcement action by issuing an infringement notice or a direction notice to remedy the noise nuisance.

**Environmental Protection Act offence**  
– unlawfully contravene a noise standard  
**Maximum Penalty (Individuals)**  
– 600 penalty units

**Infringement Notice (Individuals)**  
– 15 penalty units

## Know your noise limits

Enforcement action may be commenced if noise from building work is audible and can be clearly heard at premises between the following hours:

- 6.30pm to 6.30am on a business day or Saturday
- at any time on any other day.

## Be a good neighbour

Talking to your neighbours about what work is planned and how long it will take can prevent or solve problems. Work such as jack hammering, concrete cutting and pouring, should be discussed with neighbours beforehand. A sign on the site or distribution of leaflets detailing work hours may help prevent complaints.

## Tips to reduce noise

### Limit work hours

Talk to neighbours to find out if there are particular times when noise disturbs them. Most people are concerned about noise at night or early morning.

### Select quieter equipment or use alternatives

When buying equipment, consider the quietest option. Manufacturers often label equipment with the noise level or can provide this information. Alternatives such as electrical equipment, can be quieter, cheaper, more efficient and kinder to the environment than petrol powered models.

### Choose location carefully

Where practical, work as far away as possible from neighbours, bedroom windows and offices. Close windows and doors to reduce noise levels and consider completing some work, such as framing, off-site at less sensitive locations.

### Maintenance and modifications

Regular maintenance can decrease noise and improve the effectiveness of equipment. Sometimes modifications can be made to the unit to reduce noise. Before conducting any maintenance or modifications on the unit, contact the manufacturer for advice.

### Install a fence, barrier or install an acoustic enclosure

A solid fence with no gaps can help reduce noise levels. In some situations, the installation of a suitably insulated and ventilated timber enclosure can assist in reducing noise from fixed equipment e.g. compressors. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

## I'm being impacted by noise what action can I take?

It's a good idea to make a note of how often you are being negatively impacted by noise pollution. For example, is this a one-off or is it happening regularly?

If it is a regular occurrence, consider talking with the person who is responsible to find a solution. If you don't feel comfortable talking with the person directly, consider leaving a respectful letter in their mailbox. If you are unable to find a solution, you can lodge a complaint with council. Council will send you a nuisance pack with a complaint form and diary to complete and formalise the complaint.



### Lodging a complaint with council

*By phone:*

1300 307 800

*By email:*

[council@gympie.qld.gov.au](mailto:council@gympie.qld.gov.au)

*In person:*

at one of council's customer contact points

