

Noise Pollution Regulated Devices

Noise from chainsaws, compressors and other regulated devices may disturb neighbours, disrupt sleep, and detrimentally affect health.

Types of Regulated Devices

- Compressors and generators
- Ducted vacuuming systems
- Grass cutters, such as lawnmowers and edge cutters
- Impacting tools, such as hammers and nail guns
- Leaf blowers and mulchers
- Oxyacetylene burners
- Electrical, mechanical or pneumatic power tools, such as chainsaws, drills and sanders.

These provisions do not apply to builders or owner builders. For requirements for owner builders or building contractors working on a building site please refer to council's *Noise Pollution – Building Works* factsheet.

The law

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

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.



Know your noise limits

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

- **7pm to 7am** – on a business day or Saturday
- **7pm to 8am** – on any other day.

Be a good neighbour

Talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they have and seek suggestions to resolve problems.

Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

Tips to reduce noise

Limit hours of use

Ask neighbours which times noise will particularly disturb them.

Select equipment carefully

When purchasing equipment, consider the noise level or use alternatives, such as:

- Swap the leaf blower for a rake or broom
- Swap mulching for composting
- Swap petrol engines for electric powered engines.

Consider location

Complete work indoors or in a work shed if possible. Close windows and doors to reduce noise levels and consider incorporating noise reduction measures into your workshop.

Maintenance and modifications

Regular maintenance can decrease noise and improve the effectiveness of equipment.

Consider whether modifications, such as mufflers can be fitted to engine-powered equipment. Before adding any modifications, contact the manufacturer for advice.

Install a fence or 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 regulated devices. 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

In person:

at one of council's customer contact points

