

TOOLS AND MAINTENANCE NOISE (REGULATED DEVICES)

Environmental Protection Act 1994



REGULATED DEVICES

Noise from power tools, lawn mowers and other devices may disturb neighbours, disrupt sleep and interfere with normal daily activities. If loud enough, they can also affect people's health.

These noisy tools are identified as regulated devices in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the Act). Regulated devices include:

- » compressors and generators
- » ducted vacuum systems
- » grass cutters, such as lawnmowers and edge cutters
- » leaf blowers and mulchers
- » impacting tools, such as hammers and nail guns
- » oxyacetylene burners
- » electrical, mechanical and pneumatic power tools, such as chainsaws, drills and sanders.

RESULTS OF CAUSING A NUISANCE

The standards within the Act set limits on the hours that some equipment and devices (including regulated devices) can be operated. Council is responsible for enforcing the standards for regulated devices on residential and commercial properties. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved, Council can investigate.

If a person uses a regulated device outside of the time restrictions, Council may take enforcement action, which may include fines.

Note: These provisions apply to individuals carrying out work on their own property. For information on requirements for builders, contractors and owner builders, please read the information sheet *Building Noise* or contact Council.

ALLOWABLE TIMES

Noise from regulated devices is permitted during the following times:

- » Monday – Saturday - 7am to 7pm
- » Sundays and public holidays - 8am to 7pm.

REDUCING NOISE DISTURBANCES

If your neighbours are causing a disturbance due to the use of a regulated device, Council encourages you to talk to your neighbour in the first instance to attempt to find a resolution. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone. Below are some suggestions to reduce noise disturbances.

Limit hours of use

- » Abide by the allowable times.
- » Ask neighbours which times noise will particularly disturb them and avoid those times if possible.

Select equipment carefully

Consider the noise level when purchasing equipment, or use alternatives, such as:

- » sweeping instead of using a leaf blower
- » composting instead of mulching
- » using electric powered devices instead of petrol 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.

Maintain equipment

- » Regular maintenance may decrease noise and improve the effectiveness of equipment (contact the manufacturer for advice).

Use acoustic enclosures

- » Some fixed equipment can be enclosed in acoustic enclosures to reduce noise. This is often device and site specific, so it is best to speak with an acoustic specialist for advice on acoustic materials for enclosing equipment (e.g. contact the manufacturer or installer for advice).

Modifications might help

- » Consider whether modifications such as mufflers can be fitted to engine-powered equipment (contact the manufacturer for advice).

MORE INFORMATION

For more information visit Council's website townsville.qld.gov.au, or call Council's Customer Service Centre on 13 48 10.