

Noise

Building noise



Noise emitting from building sites can have negative effects on a person's health and wellbeing that often results in complaints. It can affect people through annoyance, sleep deprivation, stress, loss of productivity and a general reduction in the quality of life. In order to protect the fundamental values of the community, there are regulations that govern noise levels from building sites.

This fact sheet includes information that may assist builders to reduce noise emissions and meet their legal requirements.

The Law

Noise from building sites is regulated under the Environmental Protection Regulation 1998. Under the legislation, restrictions apply to building work carried out by owner builders, builders, sub-contractors and other professions engaged to work for or on behalf of a builder. The following restrictions apply.

No audible noise is permitted: Monday to Saturday from 6.30pm to 6.30am, or anytime on Sundays and public holidays

Please note that Mackay Regional Council has an after hours service which enables after hours complaints to be investigated. If an individual, employee, contractor or subcontractor is found to be creating noise that is audible from a building site during the restricted times, an on the spot fine (Penalty Infringement Notice) may be issued.

How to reduce building noise

To help reduce building noise, you can:

- Limit work hours
- Select quieter equipment or use alternatives
- Carry out work as far away as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas such as bedroom windows
- Regularly service your equipment – lack of maintenance can cause higher noise levels
- Erect a solid fence or barrier
- Install an acoustic enclosure for fixed equipment such as compressors or vacuum equipment
- Modify equipment – discuss this option with the manufacturer or installer.

If noisy work is planned, such as

jack hammering and concrete cutting, discuss this with nearby residents beforehand. A sign on site or distribution of leaflets explaining the hours and duration of operation may prevent complaints.

Please note that Mackay Regional Council has developed a series of other fact sheets that address other noise related nuisances. These include:

- noise nuisances
- spa and swimming pools
- regulated devices
- air conditioning equipment.

To obtain a copy of these fact sheets, please visit our website (www.mackay.qld.gov.au). If you wish to speak to an officer regarding these noise-related issues, contact Mackay Regional Council.

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