

# Noise

## Pool pumps & spa blowers



In some circumstances, noise generated from pool pumps and spa blowers can disturb neighbours by disrupting their sleep and interfere with normal daily activities (listening to the TV and talking on the telephone). If loud enough it can impact on peoples health. This fact sheet includes information that may assist residents to reduce noise emissions and meet legal requirements.

### Be a good neighbour

Before installing equipment, take the time to talk to your neighbour and discuss any noise concerns.

Remember that by contacting your neighbour first, you may prevent problems arising in the future.

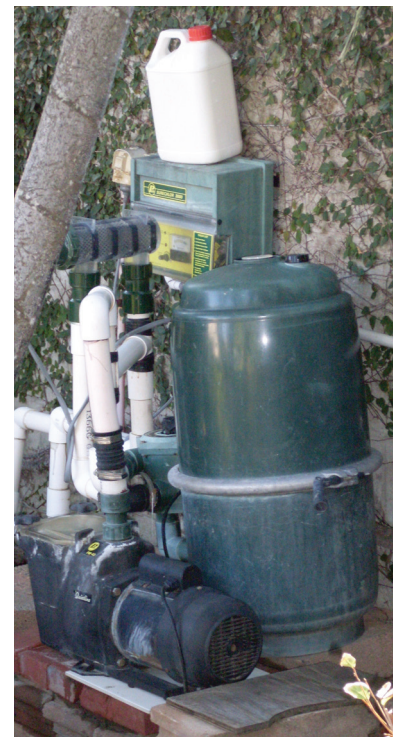
### The Law

Noise emitted from a pool pump or spa blower is regulated by the "Environmental Protection Act 1994". The act provides restrictions on times noise can be made. These restrictions have been outlined below:

- 7 am to 7 pm – no louder than 5 decibels above the background level
- 7 pm to 10 pm - No more than 3 decibels above the background noise level
- 10pm to 7 am – No audible noise to be made

### Ways to reduce noise

A range of measures can be used to reduce the noise impact of pool pumps and spa blowers.



Ways to reduce noise include:

- Limit the hours of use
- Talk to your neighbours to find out if there are particular times when the pool pump or spa blower disturbs them. Most people are affected late at night, and early in the morning when trying to sleep.

Remember that some people may undertake shift work. Put the pump on a timer to ensure the unit isn't left running.



### Know your pool

Know how long the pool filter needs to run for acceptable water quality. Most average pools require the pump to run for 3-6 hours to achieve one or two turnovers of pool volume per day. Regular maintenance measures should be carried out (chlorination, pH adjustment, cleaning of the filter). Also ensure the timer on the pump is operating at the legislative times. Talk to your local pool shop or pool pump manufacturer for information.

### Location

Finding the right position for the pool pump and spa blower is an important decision. Be aware that pool pumps and spa blowers that meet the Australian Standards may still cause a nuisance, if not located in a suitable position. When installing your pool, seek advice from the installation company regarding the best location for your pool pump.

Locate the pump or blower away from your neighbours' house, especially sensitive areas (i.e. bedrooms, lounge rooms and entertainment areas. Avoid placing the unit near reflective surfaces (e.g. multiple walls, corners) and use existing features to hide the pump and blower from view, as this will often reduce its noise impact.

### Maintenance

A lack of maintenance (such as keeping the filter clean) can cause higher noise levels and reduce the effectiveness of the pump or spa blower. Contact the manufacturer or installer for further advice.

### Selecting a quieter pool pump or spa blower

Older units can be particularly noisy and an undersized pump needs to run for longer to maintain pool water quality. Replacing the pump or blower with a quieter or appropriately

sized model may help solve the problem.

### Acoustic Barriers/Enclosures

An acoustic barrier, such as a solid fence between properties or a specially designed enclosure may assist in reducing the amount of noise being emitted from a property. Acoustic enclosures must be designed so as to provide adequate ventilation. Discuss this option with the manufacturer or installer.

### Modifications to the fan or pump unit

Sometimes modifications can be made to the unit to reduce noise. Modifications should be discussed with the manufacturer to maintain warranty on the unit.

### For details please contact Mackay Regional Council.

Phone 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529) or visit [www.mackay.qld.gov.au](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au)