



**Birmingham City Council**



# Do not disturb

Being a considerate neighbour

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We can all do our bit in helping to reduce noise nuisance to others. Of course, some noise is unavoidable but there are lots of simple ways to avoid disturbing others.

Try to site noisy household equipment such as washing machines, dish washers etc away from partition walls or place them on a carpet or rubber mat to reduce vibration.

Consider fitting carpets over floorboards and curtains on windows to reduce everyday noise in your home.

Try to reduce the effect of noise from your TV and stereo by moving them away from your neighbour's walls. If you live in a flat with a neighbour beneath you, raise your TV and stereo off the floor if possible.

Try to always keep the volume of your TV, radio and music as low as possible, especially late at night. Set your hi-fi bass control at a low level – the base beat can be particularly irritating!

If you like your music loud, use headphones. But be careful, if you cannot hear other people talking when

you are wearing headphones you could be deafening yourself.

If you like loud music in your car keep the windows closed so as not to annoy others.

When doing DIY, try and make sure you carry out the noisiest jobs during the day. Keep the evening for quieter work such as painting and decorating.

Consider mowing the lawn and using garden power tools at a reasonable time – not early morning or late evening when the noise could be most annoying.

If you play a musical instrument, consider practising it at a reasonable time and not early in the morning or during the late evening or night when the noise could be most annoying.

Try to carry out unavoidable noisy activities in sociable hours, which the National Society for Clean Air and

Environmental Protection defines as being between 8.00am and 7.00pm weekdays and Saturday and between 10.00am and 5.00pm Sundays.

If you own a dog, train it not to bark unnecessarily. Never leave your dog alone for long periods – ask a friend to exercise it during your absence. In law a barking dog can be a noise nuisance and you could be prosecuted if you do nothing to stop it.

If you're a car or motorcycle driver, always drive quietly in built up areas. Try not to drive and brake fiercely.

Try to avoid revving your car or motorcycle unnecessarily. Try and keep the silencer in good condition and only use your horn in an emergency. Remember, it is illegal to sound a car horn between the hours of 11.30pm and 7.00am and anytime when the vehicle is stationary unless it is an emergency.

If you are using taxis or minicabs early in the morning or late at night ask the driver to announce his arrival by knocking on your door or phoning beforehand rather than sounding his horn.

If you have a house alarm please get it maintained regularly so that it doesn't go off accidentally.

When you buy a new household appliance such as a washing machine choose the quietest model. This will encourage manufacturers to make more!

Warn your neighbours if you are going to make unavoidable noise – having a party or doing DIY for example.

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