

Noise

Noise from neighbours is a common source of disturbance, as no house or flat is totally soundproof. The most frequent reports are about loud music, dogs barking, banging doors and DIY activities. We must all live within the constraints of our individual properties. Everyone can expect to hear some noise from the people who live around them and we ask that you are tolerant of this and also mindful when carrying out noisy activities of the potential impact of these on your neighbour.

Here are some guidelines for reducing noise in the home to minimise disturbance to neighbours.

DIY

You may need to carry out some DIY works to your property to maintain and improve your homes. In order to reduce the impact on your neighbours, you could do the following:

- Whenever possible, let your neighbours know that you are undertaking noisy work during normal waking hours eg *between 9am-6pm*
- Carry out the noisiest tasks in the middle of the day
- Keep tools well maintained and use lower/quieter settings on power tools where feasible.



Garden noise

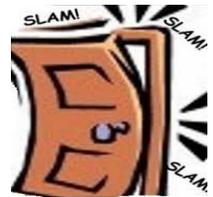
Your gardens are a place to rest, relax and play. Gardens tend to offer minimal sound insulation so your activities can have a greater effect on neighbours.



- If a child's toy or game is extremely noisy, try and find quieter alternatives e.g. using soft balls or limit time playing the noisy games.
- If you have a barbecue or party, tell your neighbours, invite them if appropriate, avoid amplified music out of doors and if anyone does complain, turn it down. Either end your party or bring your guests indoors at a reasonable time.

Household Noise

Take care when closing doors, particularly if you live in a flat with a shared entrance and particularly late at night and early in the morning.



- Cupboard doors can also be annoying especially if the units are fixed to party walls. Avoid slamming doors. Inexpensive adhesive furniture pads can be a very effective way of reducing noise by sticking these to the inside of the cupboard door or around an internal door frame.
- If you live in a flat when you are considering floor coverings, please consider carpet as laminate floor may increase the noise transmission to your neighbours. (Please note if you are a Crawley Borough Council tenant and live in a first floor flat or above you are not permitted to lay laminate floor)



Loud music

Music tastes vary so do not assume just because you like a song your neighbour will want to hear it as well.



- With amplified sound, keep the volume down, especially the bass which can be more annoying than higher frequencies. Don't put speakers on or close to party walls, ceilings or floors.
- If you have a bedroom TV, keep it quiet at night, especially if your bedroom adjoins someone else's.
- If playing an instrument, practice where and when it will have least impact on neighbours.
- Where possible, use headphones if listening to loud music/loud TV.

Pets

As a responsible pet owner you need to ensure that your animal does not cause a nuisance to others. Whilst barking is a natural behaviour, continual dog barking/howling is unacceptable and the behaviour needs to be addressed.

- Dogs bark if they are lonely/unhappy, dogs can bark continuously which neighbours may find disturbing. If you have to leave your dog alone, make sure it's well exercised and fed. Some dogs like a radio for company, or get a friend or neighbour to look in.
- You should not leave your dog alone for long periods of time if it barks continuously.

Household appliances

Sometimes people are disturbed by you doing your household chores. Appliances such as dishwashers/washing machines can not only be noisy but can also cause vibrations which can sometimes be heard in neighbouring properties.

- When buying new appliances, buy a quieter model, not all models have a noise rating, but look out for the "Quiet Mark". Where possible, position them to cause the least disturbance to your neighbour.
- Ensure washing machines, dishwashers and fridge freezers if possible, are placed on an even floor and on a carpet/mat to reduce vibrations, if you live in a flat.
- Do the vacuuming at a reasonable time, especially if you live in a flat or terrace, avoid early morning or late night cleaning sprees.
- In the kitchen, avoid banging pans and cupboard doors and don't use blenders/grinders on surfaces attached to party walls.

