



NEWCASTLE·UNDER·LYME
BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOISE - DIY

Please note; this advice applies to DIY NOISE and not noise from Construction sites. Please see our separate leaflet on construction noise

Most people have tasks which need doing around the home, especially if they have just moved in, or if they are redecorating. Therefore we have to accept that many people have '9 to 5' jobs during the day and need to do DIY work in the evenings and at weekends.

However, this does not give them permission to annoy neighbours at all hours of the day and night (or for DIY work to simply go on and on). We all have to be reasonable in our behaviour towards others.

In extreme cases, DIY noise can constitute a statutory nuisance which the local council can deal with using powers under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. More information is available about statutory nuisances on our website at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/noise

General advice for controlling noise from DIY activities

Think! Would you be happy if your neighbour started drilling and hammering at 9 o'clock at night or at 7.30 on a Sunday morning? Consider how much noise your job is going to generate and have a plan of how you will deal with it before you start.

Speak with your neighbours. Explain that the work is something you must do and apologise in advance of any disturbance your work might cause them. Simple information such as how much work you have to do and how long it might last for can go a long way to maintaining relations with them. Be sure to tell them that if the noise is bothering them then they should speak to you first and let you know so that you can do something about it. Most importantly, if they do come to you and say it is a problem – do something about it!

Whether or not noise from DIY activities is causing a nuisance comes very much down to the time of day that it is being done and whether or not it can be considered reasonable. Generally works carried out during the day will cause less nuisance than those done early in the morning or late at night.

There are no set times between which works can or cannot be done but you should always make sure you do the work during reasonable times. If you must do the work in the evening's midweek, start and finish as early as possible. Consider the fact that most people look forward to having a lie in at weekends so don't start too early in the morning.

Please advise your neighbours first if you intend to undertake some noisy DIY and ensure that the work is done within reasonable times;

We usually suggest 08:00 to 20:00 Monday to Friday, 09:00 to 17:00 Saturday and 10:00 to 16:00 on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

****In respect of DIY noise we would generally recommend that no work should be undertaken on Sundays and Bank Holidays IF work has already been undertaken in preceding workdays (i.e. Monday to Saturday).***

DIY NOISE AND THE LAW

The Council has a statutory duty to investigate complaints about noise. In the event of a complaint, a letter will usually be sent to both parties asking for information to reinforce their case. This is usually done through completion of log sheets and communications with both parties. Officers will then consider the information and take steps to solve the problem; these steps can range from informal discussions to prosecution.

In the event of a Statutory Noise Nuisance being established, an Abatement Notice will be served upon the person responsible, or the owner of the property. This can prohibit noise emanating from the premises and may carry a heavy fine should the notice be breached. Failure to comply with this Notice is a criminal offence and upon conviction, Magistrates may impose a fine of up to £5,000.

We also have powers to seize noise-making equipment, which is, or has been causing a noise nuisance. If you live in rented accommodation, it is also possible for your Landlord to evict you if you are in breach of your tenancy agreement.

FURTHER ADVICE

To obtain further advice on noise nuisances please contact the Environmental Protection Team on 01782 742590 www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/noise