

## Noise Pollution - Pumps

Noise from pumps can disturb your neighbours. The noise can disrupt their sleep, interfere with normal daily activities and, if loud enough, it can also affect their health. This information sheet can help you to reduce noise from pumps and meet legal requirements.

### Be a good neighbour

Take the time to talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they may have before installing equipment and seek suggestions about solving any noise problems. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

### The law

Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act* includes noise limits for pumps. Pumps include electrical, mechanical or pneumatic pumps, swimming pool pumps and spa blowers. Council is legally required to enforce the noise limits. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and further complaints are made, Council will investigate and take the required action.

### Allowable noise limits

The allowable noise limits for pumps is set out in the table below. If noise from a pump exceeds the noise limits when measured at a neighbours premises, Council may take further action.

Time	Day	Noise Limit
7am to 7pm	Every day	if the pump makes a noise of more that 5dB(A) above the background noise
7pm to 10pm	Every day	if the pump makes a noise of more that 3dB(A) above the background noise
10pm to 7am	Every day	if the pump makes an audible noise

### Ways to reduce noise

To help reduce noise from your pump, you can:

#### Limit the hours of use

Depending on the pump's use, consider a timer to ensure it operates at appropriate times.

If it is a swimming pool pump, know how long the pool filter needs to run for acceptable water quality. In most cases, this is only necessary to allow pool water to turn over once or twice a day. For an average pool, run the pump for three to six hours per day. Talk to the local pool shop or pool pump manufacturer for information.

#### Select a quieter pump

Replacing the pump with a quieter or appropriately-sized model may help solve the problem.

#### Choose the location of the pump carefully

Locate the pump as far away as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas, such as bedroom windows. When installing a pump, ask the installer for advice.

### **Undertake regular maintenance**

Regular maintenance of the pump will ensure the effectiveness of and assist in reducing the noise from the pump. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

### **Install fences or barriers**

Consider installing a solid fence without gaps between the pump and your neighbour, this can help reduce noise levels.

### **Install an acoustic enclosure**

Consider enclosing the pump unit in a ventilated 'box' with an absorbent lining. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

### **Modify the motor or pump unit**

Sometimes modifications can be made to the unit to reduce noise. Discuss this option with the manufacturer or installer.

For more information contact Council's Customer Service Centre or visit our website.