

Noise Pollution – Refrigeration Equipment

Noise from refrigeration equipment 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 refrigeration equipment 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 refrigeration equipment including equipment that is on or in a vehicle (excluding vehicle used or to be used on a railway). 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 refrigeration equipment is set out in the table below. If noise from refrigeration equipment exceeds the noise limits when measured at a neighbours premises, Council may take further action.

Time	Day	Noise Limit
7am to 10pm	Every day	if the refrigeration equipment makes a noise of more than 5dB(A) above the background noise
10pm to 7am	Every day	if the refrigeration equipment makes a noise of more than 3dB(A) above the background noise

Ways to reduce noise

To help reduce noise from your refrigeration equipment, you can:

Limit the hours of use

Consider not using the refrigeration equipment when neighbours are most disturbed by the noise.

Select quieter refrigeration equipment

Replacing the refrigeration equipment with a quieter model may help solve the problem.

Choose the location of refrigeration equipment carefully

Locate refrigeration equipment as far away as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas, such as bedroom windows.

Undertake regular maintenance

Regular maintenance can decrease noise levels and improve the effectiveness. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

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Install fences or barriers

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

Install an acoustic enclosure

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

Modify the fan or compressor unit

Sometimes modifications can be made to the unit to reduce noise. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.

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