



*Basingstoke
and Deane*

Neighbour noise

Keeping the peace with your neighbours



Reducing noise

Every day activity creates some noise. However, noise disputes can occur when neighbours are inconsiderate. It is important to acknowledge the noise your household makes and think about the impact it might be having on your neighbours. With this in mind, we have put together some top tips on how you can reduce noise.

Get to know your neighbours and their lifestyle, for example, are they retired? Do they have young children? Once you have done this, you can fully consider the effect you are having on them. If you suspect you are upsetting or disturbing them, try to reduce your noise levels. Go and speak to your neighbours and, if necessary, apologise.

If you are approached by a neighbour and asked to keep your noise down react positively. Respect their right to peace and quiet in their home.

Top tips

- Don't slam doors – consider fitting soft-closing mechanisms to doors to minimise noise.
- Remember that noise and vibration transmits easily through walls and floors.
- Have carpets and heavy curtains. They help to absorb sound.
- Keep musical instrument practices short and at respectable times. Speak to your neighbours and agree the times you will be practising.
- Make your children aware that their noise can disturb others.
- Try to avoid shouting or screaming.
- Don't sound car horns unnecessarily, slam car doors or rev engines, especially at night.
- Don't let off fireworks after 11pm.
- Be aware of the law, and that you have responsibilities as well as rights.



Stereos, TVs and radios

These are the most frequent causes for complaint. What is considered entertainment for one person can be torture for someone else.

Don't play music so loud that it disturbs your neighbours and keep the bass level down.

Try to position any speakers away from party walls, floors and ceilings. Standing them on an insulating material can also reduce the transmission of sound.

Music in the garden is more likely to cause a problem to your neighbours – try and keep it at or below conversation level or wear headphones.

Parties

Don't have regular loud, late night parties. If you are having a party consider inviting the neighbours or warn them in advance and let them know when it is likely to finish (at a reasonable time).

When the party is underway keep the windows and doors closed. If someone complains, be prepared to apologise and turn the music down.

Banging doors and stamping feet

Sound travels through walls, so be aware of what is next door.

Avoid slamming doors and running up or down stairs especially if you live in a flat or terraced house.

When considering options for flooring think about your neighbours. If you are considering laminate or wood flooring then we have some further information in the *noise associated with wood and laminate flooring* leaflet available on the council's website.

Dogs barking

Complaints about dogs barking often happens because dogs are left at home alone for long periods of time. There are, however, practical steps dog owners can take to minimise dog barking and prevent a noise nuisance. This information is in the council's *barking dogs* leaflet which is available on our website.

Household appliances

Don't use domestic appliances late at night. Domestic appliances such as washing machines, dishwashers and vacuum cleaners can be very loud. Although their use cannot be avoided where you place them and when you use them can make all the difference.

Ensure noisy appliances are away from party walls and on a carpet or mat, to reduce vibration.

Be considerate and only use noisy appliances during normal waking hours.

DIY activity

We all need to carry out DIY from time to time to maintain and improve our homes. However, drilling, hammering and sawing are noisy and their repetitiveness can be as much of a nuisance as the volume.

Warn your neighbours before you start a noisy job and try to carry out the work at a time that will be least disturbing to them. Try not to start work too late on a week night in case they want to go to bed early and try not to spoil their Sunday morning lie in. Where possible try and agree times with your neighbour(s) for when noisy DIY work will be done.

For further advice or information see

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/go/noise

email ehteam@basingstoke.gov.uk or call 01256 844844



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