

Residential Noise Pollution

The *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Noise) Regulations 2016* are used to regulate the emission of noise in Tasmania.

As a general rule, noise-making equipment and activities must not unreasonably interfere with a neighbour's enjoyment of their environment. Common noise concerns include loud music, poorly located air conditioners, power tools and gardening equipment.

Noise made at any time and noise from equipment not listed in the Noise Regulations can still be deemed unreasonable and constitute an environmental nuisance under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA).

Noise is an environmental nuisance if it unreasonably interferes with a person's enjoyment of the environment, having regard to:-

- the volume, intensity or duration and
- the time, place and other circumstances in which the noise occurs and
- in the case of noise emitted from residential premises, whether it is, or is likely to be, audible in a habitable room in any other residential premises.

Reporting a noise issue

Often your neighbours will not realise that their noise is affecting you. Being considerate and respectful to your neighbours can help avoid conflict about noise.

If you cannot reach an agreement after talking to your neighbour, you can contact Council for advice.

You will need to provide your name, address and contact information as well as details about the address of the alleged offender and the nature of the noise. You may also be asked to complete a noise diary, detailing the times, dates and a description of the effect that the noise causes.

An Infringement Notice (fine) may be issued if a subsequent complaint is validated by a Council officer.

For noise complaints during normal business hours, please contact the City of Launceston on **6323 3000**.

For noise complaints outside normal business hours, please contact Tasmania Police on **131 444**.

Prohibited hours of use

Prohibited hours of use have been established for the use of common noise-making equipment on residential premises and construction and demolition sites to help protect the community from noise nuisance.

Chainsaws

(powered by internal combustion engine operated within 300 metres of residential premises; may be used for domestic garden maintenance on only one day in any consecutive 7 days)

Days	Prohibited hours of use
Monday to Friday	Before 7am and after 6pm
Saturday	Before 9am and after 6pm
Sunday or public holiday	Before 10am and after 6pm

Mobile machinery, forklift truck or portable equipment

Days	Prohibited hours of use
Monday to Friday	Before 7am and after 6pm
Saturday	Before 8am and after 6pm
Sunday or public holiday	Before 10am and after 6pm

Motor vehicle, motor vessel or outboard motor

(unless the vehicle, vessel or motor is being operated to move into or out of residential premises or construction or demolition site)

Days	Prohibited hours of use
Monday to Friday	Before 7am and after 6pm
Saturday	Before 9am and after 6pm
Sunday or public holiday	Before 10am and after 6pm

Musical instrument or sound-amplifying equipment

Days	Prohibited hours of use
Monday to Thursday	Before 7am and after 10pm
Friday	Before 7am and after 12 Midnight
Saturday	Before 9am and after 12 Midnight
Sunday or public holiday	Before 10am and after 10pm

Power lawn mower and other garden maintenance equipment powered by an engine

Days	Prohibited hours of use
Monday to Friday	Before 7am and after 8pm
Saturday	Before 9am and after 8pm
Sunday or public holiday	Before 10am and after 8pm