

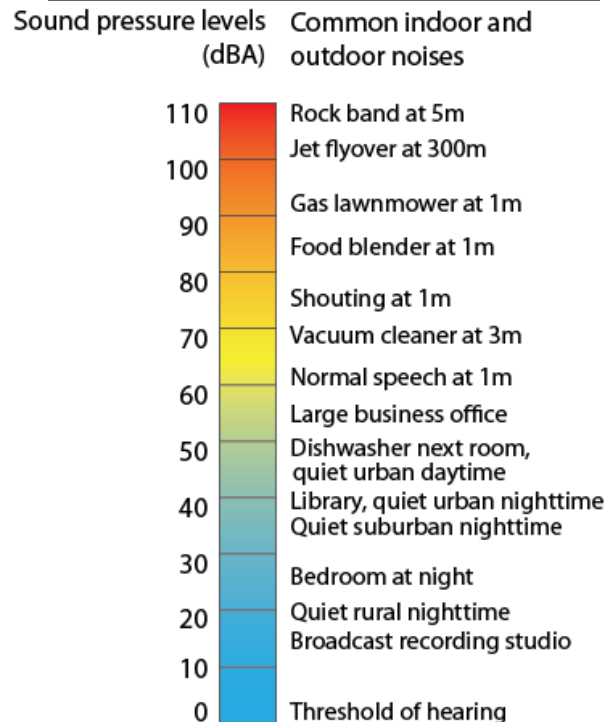
How is sound measured?

Sound is measured on a 'decibel' scale called dB. This is weighted to match the sensitivity of the human ear and called 'dBA'.

The District Plan measures dBA and L_{Aeq} .

- dBA includes all sounds, and is useful to measure sounds like a bang.
- L_{Aeq} is the average level of noise produced over a time period above the background noise (i.e Stereo).

Check the District Plan to see the noise limits in your area.



Does the District Plan cover all types of noise?

The District Plan contains a list of noises that are exempt from the plan. See Shaping Whanganui for more details.

There is also specific legalisation that covers the following:

- **Barking Dogs** are covered by the Dog Control Act 1996
- **Noisy Vehicles** on the road are covered by Traffic Regulations.
- **Noise within the workplace** is covered by Health & Safety at Work Act 2015.
- **Noise between tenancies** with the same landlord is covered by Residential Tenancies Act 1996.

This pamphlet is one in a series published by the Whanganui District Council. It is intended to provide general information only. It is not intended as a legal document and may not be applicable in all circumstances. For specific information on any consent application please contact a Council Planner.



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

101 Guyton Street
PO Box 637
Whanganui 4500

Phone: (06) 349 0001
Fax: 06 349 0000
www.whanganui.govt.nz

Whanganui District Council



A Guide to Noise Control



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

What is excessive noise?



The Resource Management Act 1991, Section 326 defines, “Excessive Noise” as any noise that is under human control and of such a nature as to unreasonably interfere with the peace, comfort and convenience of any person.

How to deal with unwanted noise

Noise is a fact of everyday life; however, we are all entitled to expect that the activities of others do not interfere unreasonably with our private lives. Noise can arise from various sources:

- 1 *Domestic noise (loud music, barking dogs, mowing lawns, outdoor events).*
- 2 *Commercial or industrial premises (pubs, clubs, factories, construction work).*
- 3 *Noisy equipment (alarms, ventilation fans, refrigeration units).*
- 4 *Vehicles, when not being driven on the road (car alarms and stereos).*

In many cases the person/s causing the noise may not be aware they are causing a problem and all that is required is a polite request for some action to be taken to resolve the issue in a friendly way. Don't take any risks if you are unsure as such an approach can sometimes produce a hostile response.

Please contact us if you don't feel able to deal with problem yourself, or if you have tried and it hasn't worked. Officer's will investigate the complaint and decide if legal action is necessary to resolve the problem.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the Act, you must keep noise from your property to a 'reasonable' level. Although there is no clear definition of what's 'reasonable', generally noise should not disturb your neighbours or be unreasonably audible beyond your property boundary.

If you wish to make a noise complaint

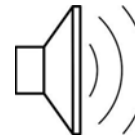
The Whanganui District Council operates a 24 hour noise complaint response service, phone 06 349 0001.

If ringing to make a complaint please provide as much information to assist the responding Officer. If an accurate location of the noise is given this assists us in providing you with a faster more effective service.

If a complaint is received

If a complaint is received by a Council Officer regarding excessive noise, the Officer is required to investigate the complaint.

TOOLS NOISE CONTROL OFFICERS CAN USE



On verification of excessive noise, direct the person responsible for the noise to turn the noise down to an acceptable level. This direction may be given in writing or verbally to any person who appears to be responsible for the noise. The direction can be in force for up to 72 hours.

If the noise is not turned down (or the noise continues when the Officer leaves) that Officer (accompanied by a Police Officer) may enter the address and seize the instrument or appliance from which the noise was coming.

A \$500.00 infringement can also be issued for breach of the direction. If two directions are received within a

three month period a Noise Abatement Notice may be issued. Breach of this notice can incur a \$750.00 infringement or the noise makers may be prosecuted.

SEIZED EQUIPMENT

If the noise is not reduced the equipment will be seized by a Noise Control Officer. If there is a likelihood of further offending or a noise history at the address you may not get the equipment back. You must prove that your circumstances are special and that neighbours will not be affected.

Provided you have sufficient evidence that the neighbours will not be affected your equipment may be collected from the Customer Services Desk at the Whanganui District Council, Municipal Building, 101 Guyton Street, Whanganui upon payment of \$160.00.

If the equipment has been seized from an address that has a Noise Abatement Notice issued to the property the equipment may not be returned. If a Noise Abatement Notice has been issued to an address and you do not agree with the notice the owner or occupant has the right to appeal to the Environment Court using form 49 which can be obtained from the Council Offices.