



Noise from 'Do it Yourself' building works



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Noise from neighbours can annoy, cause stress and generally affect the quality of life in a residential area. The best way forward is to avoid causing a problem in the first place. These guidance notes try to assist you in dealing effectively with DIY noise

Noisy 'do-it-yourself' activities

Most people have jobs which need doing around the home, especially if they have just moved in, or are redecorating. We have to accept that many people have jobs during the day and need to do this DIY in the evenings and at weekends. However, this does not give them permission to annoy neighbours at all hours of the day and night! We all have to be reasonable to live together.

Disturbance from DIY building and decorating can be minimised by keeping noisy activities to reasonable hours and by thinking about what type of activity you are doing. We would define "noisy activities" as those listed below and their usage should be confined to the hours given.

- **Hand tools** – Use of hammers, saws etc on the next page
- **Power tools** – Normal hand-held tools power tools (drills, saws, sanders, etc.) can cause a lot of noise.
- **Plant** – People can now hire more "professional" tools and plant such as pneumatic hammers, cement mixers, large power saws and planers, compressors, generators, etc. Use of this more powerful type of equipment needs greater consideration as it is identical to that used by professional builders and can be very noisy.
- **Party walls and floors** – Work on the party wall or floor between properties can give surprising levels of noise. Work such as wallpaper stripping or wall preparation can sound very loud next door. Work on the floor, such as plumbing, rewiring and (especially) sanding, can be very loud downstairs.

Reasonable times for "do it yourself"

We suggest that people need a rest from noise at the weekend and in the evening and it is especially important if young children are involved; we seek to provide peace and quiet in the evenings.

We suggest that the noisier activities (as defined on the previous page) are restricted to the following hours:

Weekdays	09.00 to 18.00
Saturday	09.00 to 17.00
Sunday	10.00 to 14.00

Have you got the right equipment?

Sometimes more powerful equipment will actually help solve the noise problem by taking less time to do the job.

Maintenance of equipment

There is nothing worse than someone using a 'worn out' piece of old machinery which cannot cope with the job. It makes far more noise, and the job will often take much longer than if you had the correct piece of equipment.

The radio

It seems most people want the radio on when they are doing DIY – it eases the burden! Please keep the volume down, especially in the evenings.