

## WHAT IS NOISE?

Noise is unwanted sound that can come from many different sources, such as loud music, passing traffic, mobile machinery, fixed equipment, construction sites and animals.

We live in a busy city and existing laws allow for noisy activities to be undertaken at reasonable times.

## TASMANIAN NOISE LAWS

The Act: *The Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA) regulates noise pollution in Tasmania.

The EMPCA specifies that making noise is an **environmental nuisance** if it **unreasonably** interferes with a person's enjoyment of the environment, having regard to:

- its 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

The EMPCA is enforced by the City of Hobart environmental health officers.

If you make noise that is determined to be an **environmental nuisance** you can be fined.

The Regulations: *The Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Noise) Regulations 2016* are made under the EMPCA and they specify how and when noisy equipment, machinery and vehicles can be operated.

The Regulations are enforced by the City of Hobart environmental health officers and Tasmania Police.

If you breach the Regulations you can be fined.

## SPECIFIC TYPES OF NOISE

The Noise Regulations detail how and when the following types of noise sources can be operated:

- aquatic and racing events
- equipment, including fixed equipment (heat pumps, air conditioners, compressor units, etc.)
- portable equipment (chainsaws, power tools, generators, etc.)
- mobile machinery (forklifts, cranes, excavators, etc.)
- musical instruments and amplifiers (drums, stereos)
- lawn mowers and other garden maintenance equipment.

A key element of the Regulations is the 'Prohibited Hours of Use' for the specific types of noise sources.

## CHAINSAW USE

These noisy pieces of machinery are permitted to be used for gardening and domestic purposes for 1 (one) day in any 7 (seven) consecutive days. Time restrictions apply and, in some instances, distance restrictions also apply. If you have a complaint about chainsaw use, please lodge your complaint online at [hobartcity.com.au](http://hobartcity.com.au)

## BUILDING CONSTRUCTION SITES

It is to be expected that noise will be generated from activities on any building site. Building and demolition work requires permits from the City of Hobart that can include noise control conditions. Complaints about excessive noise from building sites can be lodged online at [hobartcity.com.au](http://hobartcity.com.au)

## ANIMALS

Noise from barking dogs is covered by the *Dog Control Act 2000*. If you have a complaint about a barking dog, contact the City's Animal Management Unit on 6238 2182. If the noise is from other animals, such as roosters, contact the City's Environmental Health Unit on 6238 2715.

## LOUD MUSIC AND PARTIES

Loud music and parties occur mostly during evenings and weekends. These activities can often include loud talking, screaming, use of offensive language and so on. Any issues about loud noise/music or behavioural concerns from parties should be referred to Tasmania Police on 131 444.

## FIXED EQUIPMENT

Equipment, such as heat pumps, air conditioners and compressors, can become noisy if they are poorly sited or when in need of service or maintenance. The Regulations specify decibel levels for certain times of the day for this type of fixed equipment. Noisy fixed equipment complaints can be lodged online at [hobartcity.com.au](http://hobartcity.com.au)



## PROHIBITED HOURS OF USE

### Chainsaws

Days	Prohibited hours of use
Monday to Friday	Before 7 am and after 6 pm
Saturday	Before 9 am and after 6 pm
Sunday and statutory holidays	Before 10 am and after 6 pm

### Lawn mowers and other power garden maintenance equipment

Days	Prohibited hours of use
Monday to Friday	Before 7 am and after 8 pm
Saturday	Before 9 am and after 8 pm
Sunday and statutory holidays	Before 10 am and after 8 pm

### Mobile machinery, forklift truck or portable equipment

Days	Prohibited hours of use
Monday to Friday	Before 7 am and after 6 pm
Saturday	Before 8 am and after 6 pm
Sunday and statutory holidays	Before 10 am and after 6 pm

### Musical instruments or sound amplifying equipment

Days	Prohibited hours of use
Monday to Thursday	Before 7 am and after 10 pm
Friday	Before 7 am and after 12 midnight
Saturday	Before 9 am and after 12 midnight
Sunday and statutory holidays	Before 10 am and after 10 pm

### Motor vehicles, motor vessels and outboard motors

Days	Prohibited hours of use
Monday to Friday	Before 7 am and after 6 pm
Saturday	Before 9 am and after 6 pm
Sunday and statutory holidays	Before 10 am and after 6 pm



## Noise nuisances

General information

### FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, contact:

**City of Hobart  
Environmental Health Unit**

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City of **HOBART**