

NOISE FROM STEREO MUSIC

Regulations/ restrictions on stereo music

Stereo music can be played as long as it does not unreasonably interfere with the health, comfort or convenience of an occupier of a premises receiving the noise and it complies with the Environmental (Protection) Noise Regulations 1997.

The Environmental (Protection) Noise Regulations 1997

The assigned noise levels can be used to determine if unreasonable noise is being emitted, these levels are shown below. LA10 levels are normally used to determine the noise level using a calibrated sound level metre.

Type of Premise Receiving noise	Time of Day	Assigned level (dB)		
		LA10	LA1	L _{Amax}
Noise sensitive premises at locations within 15 metres of a building directly associated with a noise sensitive use	7:00am to 7:00pm Mon - Sat	45 + IF	55 + IF	65 + IF
	9:00am to 7:00pm Sun and Pub Holidays	40 + IF	50 + IF	65 + IF
	7:00pm to 10:00pm all days	40 + IF	50 + IF	55 + IF
	10:00pm on any day to 7:00am Mon to Sat and 9:00am Sun and Pub Holidays	35 + IF	45 + IF	55 + IF

To reduce the risk of disturbing neighbours consider these tips

- Keep music as low as possible, especially at night, ensure bass control on the stereo is turned down
- Keep it at a level that cannot be heard at your boundary
- Use headphones or listen to music on a personal stereo late at night
- Position speakers away from neighbours and keep windows and doors closed so the noise doesn't travel
- Do not locate speakers outside of your dwelling.

If noise from music is causing you annoyance, you may find it helpful to take one or more of the following steps

- Speak politely to the person using the stereo to make them aware that it causes you annoyance. It may be helpful to let the person know that it affects you, as they may not realise it causes you concern, and it gives them the opportunity to change their actions.
- If the stereo noise continues to causes you concern, you may lodge a complaint with the City on 1300 422 664.

Role of Council's Health Service

Council's Noise Officers may be able to assist in helping to resolve noise issues between neighbours, particular if the stereo is played during the daytime. Complaints are investigated by Council's Noise Officers to help ensure, stereo noise does not affect the health, comfort, or convenience of any person.

Role of the Police

The Police are authorised persons for the purposes of the Environmental Protection Act 1986, and can assist with stereo noise complaints however their attendance is prioritised against all other complaints they receive at that time. Experience has shown the Police can be very effective in helping to resolve stereo noise complaints, particularly those that occur between 5:00pm and 7:00am.

The City's Officers do not attend to complaints after hours concerning noise, in terms of an immediate call out response. Calls in this regard should be lodged with the local police on 131 444. You may however lodge your concerns with the City the next day, as the City's Officers are able to contact land owners, for ongoing noise matters.

Please note that the City is limited in ability to deal with out of hours noise matters particularly if they are associated with behavioural noise or involve alcohol and other drug use. In such a situation it is best to contact the Police as the City does not afford powers to Environmental Health Officers to deal with anti-social behaviour, and Police are best equipped to deal with after-hours noise and gatherings. When stereo / party noise is outside of business hours (evenings/ night time) / linked to antisocial behaviours please call police on 131444.

Noise Investigations

Keep in mind that noise investigations may take time and there is no set time frame for when the matter can be resolved. Authorised Noise Officers must first conduct an investigation and collect sufficient evidence before any action can be taken, which will involve measuring the noise, and that measurement must be obtained from the premises that is receiving the noise (normally the complainant's property). It is also the case, that if the matter was to proceed to court, you would be required to provide a formal statement regarding the impact of the noise.

For further details or to discuss concerns about noise pollution, please call the City on 1300 422 664.