

The law allows Police to disconnect your audible alarm and for you to be sent the bill.

The law and audible alarms

The *Environmental Protection Act 1986* gives WA Police the power to silence audible alarms. If a Police officer is satisfied that the alarm has been causing unreasonable noise for at least 30 minutes, he or she may take whatever reasonable steps are necessary to stop the alarm.

In these situations, the Police will normally call out an alarm technician, working for a security company, who will disconnect the alarm.

The Act also enables the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) to recoup, from the owner, the full cost of the disconnection. During the 2010-11 financial year, these costs ranged from \$203 to \$420.

If necessary, DEC may take legal action against the owner of the premises to recover the cost.

These laws are necessary to ensure that false alarms do not cause excessive community disturbance.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Environment and Conservation**

For more information

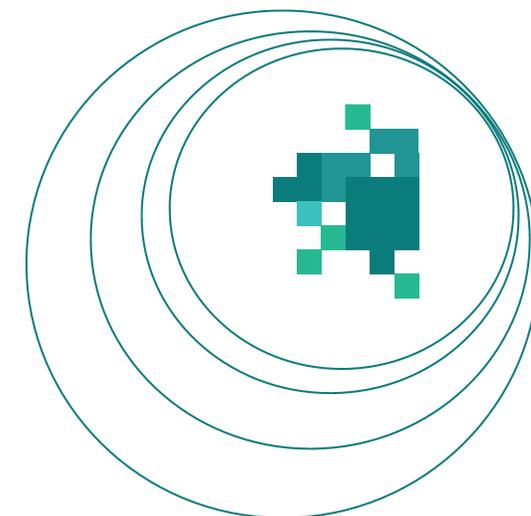
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June 2012



Noise laws and your audible alarm

Did you know that if your audible security alarm sounds for more than 30 minutes it can be legally disconnected?

Did you know that you can also be charged the cost of this disconnection?

False alarms and faulty security systems can disturb your neighbours and waste valuable Police resources.

Home/office security and audible alarms

In recent times, Western Australians have become increasingly concerned about security around both the home and office. This has led to a rapid rise in the number of intruder alarms installed.

Studies have shown that intruder alarms can be very effective in deterring burglars and preventing break-ins.

It is common practice for these intruder alarm systems to have an audible alarm or siren fitted.

Each year the WA Police receive numerous complaints about audible alarms. Unfortunately, in about 95 per cent of cases, the audible alarm was falsely activated because it was:

- an inferior model
- incorrectly installed or
- mistakenly triggered.

These alarms can cause significant annoyance to the neighbouring community due to the high noise levels emitted.

What can you do?

By following these simple steps you can reduce the chance of your security system disturbing your neighbours.

- Most false alarms are caused by operator error. Ensure that you are familiar with your alarm system and can operate it correctly.
- Ensure that your intruder alarm is installed by a Licensed Security Agent and that it complies with Australian Standard AS/NZS 2201.1:2007.
- As a general guide, your alarm system should:
 - have auxiliary power backup
 - be located so as to minimise the possibility of damage or interference
 - limit the duration of the siren for not longer than a total of five minutes
 - limit the sound level of an external siren to 90 dB(A), 3 metres from the perimeter of the building
 - be programmed to lock out any of the sensors that have triggered so that they do not re-trigger, unless the system is manually reset.

- Keep your alarm system in good working order. The Security Agents Institute recommends that the system be serviced at least once a year and tested weekly.
- Your intruder alarm can be accidentally triggered by a number of external factors. To minimise risk, ensure that when the system is active:
 - windows and doors are properly closed
 - pets are outside and vermin and insects are not prevalent
 - trees, shrubs and branches are well away from windows and doors.
- Opt for a silent or monitored alarm instead of only an audible system.