

# Noise from stereo music

## Health Services Information Fact Sheet



The Environmental *Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997 (the Regulations)* prescribe assigned (permitted) noise levels. The Regulations recognise that in some situations it is impracticable to comply with these levels. Therefore a number of special case provisions (exceptions) have been created. These exceptions cover a range of situations but are subject to conditions. The exception ceases to apply if any of the conditions are not complied with. If this happens, the noise must then comply with the permitted levels. One such exception relates to noise from construction sites.

### What is allowed?

Noise from stereos must comply with the permitted levels. These vary for each individual property as they are designed to take into consideration factors in the surrounding area. There is no exemption for music to be played until midnight, although neighbours may be more tolerant of this particularly for one off parties on a Friday or Saturday night. Permitted levels are at their lowest from 10pm onwards. In general noise which can clearly be heard inside the house, particularly at night, is likely to exceed the permitted level.

### Tips when having a party:

- Contact your neighbours beforehand and let them know you are having a party. This will allow them to make alternative arrangements if they choose. Give them information on when it will be starting and when you will be turning the music down as well as a contact number of the organiser to call if the situation becomes unbearable.
- Register the party with the WA police at [www.police.wa.gov.au](http://www.police.wa.gov.au) at least 7 days beforehand.
- Start your party earlier so it can finish earlier.
- Avoid using speakers outside the house and ensure that bass control on the stereo is turned down.
- If using speakers outside point them towards your house and not your neighbours.
- Move your guests inside after midnight and close all windows and doors to contain the noise.
- Keep music at a level that cannot be heard outside your boundary.
- Do not sing along to the music as your neighbours may not have the same appreciation for your musical talents.
- If your neighbour approaches you with concerns about the noise, imagine yourself in their position.
- Consider other factors for being a responsible host including invitations, food, drinks, entertainment, transport, safety, hygiene and litter.

Even if the above tips are followed neighbours can still lodge a noise complaint with the Police and/or the City.

### **Tips when dealing with noise from stereo music:**

- Speak politely to the person using the stereo to make them aware that it causes you annoyance, as they may not realise that it causes you concern and it also gives them the opportunity to change their actions.
- See whether or not an agreement can be made on the time of day at which the music is played or for how long.
- Remember you may wish to hold a party some point in the future and the situation will then be reversed.
- One off parties or issues surrounding behavioural problems are best handled by the WA Police by calling 131 444. Please remember that the Police will respond to the issue depending on the priority of other matters and so their attendance may take some time.
- Should the annoyance caused by a stereo be an ongoing issue, you may lodge a written complaint to the City's Health Services.

### **What happens if a complaint is lodged?**

Where the City receives a noise complaint an investigation will be undertaken as per established procedures. For more information on this as well as possible enforcement options please refer to the City's Neighbourhood Noise fact sheet.

***If you require further information about noise, you may contact the City of Swan's Health Services on 9267 9267.***