

# DIY Noise

Most people will have to undertake DIY works at some point to get jobs done around the house. The jobs could be small scale such as hanging a picture on the wall to larger scale like a complete renovation of a property. People often have to 'fit in' doing these works around their day-to-day work, which means the DIY works are often done during the evenings or weekends. This, coupled with the fact that works of this nature are inherently noisy, can cause neighbours to complain. This leaflet aims to provide some simple steps that can be taken to

try to minimise disturbance on your neighbours.

There are no time restrictions stipulated within UK legislation as to when DIY works can or can't be undertaken. This does not mean people are free to do such works when they want, if it is likely to cause a disturbance to their neighbours. Due regard must be given to the potential noise disturbance their actions may have on their neighbours by ensuring their neighbours are having the respite they need.

## Reasonable times for DIY works:

What we would consider reasonable times to undertake DIY works in most circumstances are outlined below:

- Monday to Friday - 08:00 – 20:00
- Saturday - 09:00 – 19:00
- Sunday - 10:00 - 17:00

## Before starting DIY works:

Talk to your neighbour before starting any DIY works. Let them know your intentions, how long the works are likely to go on for, and the times that you hope to work. Once you have agreed these times, stick to them. Consider any concerns they have seriously and compromise where possible to overcome these issues.

Provide them with your contact number so if they have got any concerns or complaints they can contact and discuss these with you.

## When undertaking DIY Works:

- **Radio** - Often DIY works and listening to music/radio goes hand in hand. Being mindful of what volume the radio/music is being played at can reduce the noise disturbance caused to your neighbours.
- **Party walls** - Undertaking works on party walls can sound very loud to your neighbour, even 'quieter' tasks such as sanding the wall can sound loud if done on a party wall, therefore being mindful of the times you do this can minimise the noise disturbance caused to your neighbours. You may also need to meet the requirements of the Party Wall Act. For further information see Building Regulations.
- **Noisy works** - Keeping noisy works, such as drilling, hammering to hours such as 10am – 4pm can reduce the noise disturbance on your neighbours. Also, providing them with plenty of respite from this work will help.
- **Tools** - Make sure the tools you use are well maintained and are fit for use. Often wrong tools for the job or old tools in poor disrepair will create more noise than necessary.

## Making a noise complaint:

If you are being disturbed by DIY noise we advise, if safe to do so, to approach your neighbour and discuss your complaint with them first. Should this not be successful then please don't hesitate to contact us on **01267 234567**, alternatively you can make a noise complaint online or e-mail:

[publicprotection@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:publicprotection@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

We will investigate your complaint accordingly in line with our noise complaint procedure. We aim to resolve complaints informally where possible but have legal powers should the noise be excessive and constitute a Statutory Nuisance. In these instances, we will consider serving a legal notice on the person responsible asking them to take measures to reduce the noise disturbance, such as restricting the times they are permitted to carry out the works.

