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## ADVICE FOR DO-IT-YOURSELF (DIY) ENTHUSIASTS

### NOISY WORKS

Owners and occupiers can avoid neighbours' complaints by following some simple guidance:

#### Before starting the work

- Talk to your neighbours. Tell them what work you are carrying out and how long you think it will take. If you let them know when you intend to carry out the works and when skips or materials will be delivered they are much less likely to have complaints
- Discuss reasonable working hours that suit both of you. Remember you may have to consider your neighbours lifestyle as reasonable times may be different for shift workers, people with young children or people with medical conditions.
- Remember that your neighbours are likely to be looking forward to some quiet time at weekends and on Bank Holidays

#### Once work has started

- Where you have agreed working hours with others, stick to them
- When using equipment think carefully, check you have purchased or hired the quietest available and make use of any guards etc. which may reduce the noise further. Most equipment also requires maintenance and poorly maintained equipment may make more noise and prolong the job
- Warn your neighbours about any particularly noisy operations and be clear about how long it will go on for. If your neighbours raise any problems that noise from DIY works could cause them, see what you can do to overcome them.
- If the work is likely to take a number of hours or days take breaks from the noisy work and continue with something quieter in between.
- Often, people put the radio on when they are doing DIY. If you want to do this, please keep the volume down, especially in the evenings.

#### Recommended hours for noisy work

For smaller scale, or less noisy, DIY works which cannot be done during weekdays between 8am and 6pm, then it may be appropriate to carry out DIY works during the following times:

- Monday to Friday noisy work between 9am - 9pm
- Saturday noisy work between 8am and 5pm
- Sunday noisy work 10am and 4pm.

There is nothing to stop you doing the quieter activities out of these hours e.g. painting, as long as you do not make noise which affects your neighbours.

If there is a serious problem which requires immediate attention, such as a water leak or electrical fault, it may mean noise is necessary at unsociable hours. However we ask that you consider carefully if it is possible to solve the problem another way, such as turning off the water so the leak may be repaired the next day. If there is no alternative explain the situation to your neighbours and hopefully they will understand.



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### What we will do

Please remember that people need a rest from noise at the weekend and in the evening. If a complaint is registered with us about DIY noise, it will be investigated. If you are not working within the hours mentioned above a Noise Abatement Notice could be served after the officer has carried out their investigation and witnessed the nuisance. Failure to comply with the notice may lead to seizure of noise-making equipment and/or a fine.

**Public Protection, N112 Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH**  
**Tel No: 0300 303 8657**



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