

Guidelines for good practice

Construction and demolition works are usually noisy and can take place in areas which are normally quiet. The disturbance caused by noise and dust and other issues may lead to problems for people who live and work near the site. The Council often receives complaints from people about this disturbance.

It is in everyone's interests to try to foresee any problems which could arise and plan ahead to avoid them. Larger contractors should obtain a copy of British Standard 5228 which is a Code of Practice containing information and procedures for noise control on construction sites.

Copies can be obtained from BSI (www.bsistandards.co.uk or telephone 0845 367 0242). Contractors are advised to contact your local Environmental Health Officer to discuss local restrictions before going on site.

The following recommendations should help you to avoid problems with your neighbours.

- Give neighbours who may be affected by particular operations at least 48 hours notice.
- Keep normal working hours between 8:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday and 8:00am to 1:00pm on Saturdays. There should be no Sunday or Bank Holiday working.
- Select the quietest suitable plant and equipment and keep it properly maintained and observe safe working practices
- Make sure that all sub-contractors are told to carry out their work in compliance with agreed guidelines on noise and dust and other matters.
- For long term and complex projects, arrange for detailed liaison with the local community, through structured meetings with residents.
- Avoid the need to park on the street by providing on-site parking wherever possible.
- Inform the Environmental Health Department where your activities might be expected to cause disturbance. Care must be taken to avoid damage to neighbours property. Detailed law exists on this.
- Sites should be surveyed for the presence of asbestos-containing materials by a competent person. Detailed law exists on working with and disposal of such material. Further advice can be obtained from the Health & Safety executive on 01245 706200.
- Keep the public footpaths and highways in a clean and tidy state.
- DO NOT light bonfires; the penalties are severe and the exemptions are very restricted.
- Take all reasonably practicable steps to prevent noise and dust from causing nuisance.
- Do not allow the use of radios on the site in circumstances where it could cause disturbance.





The Law

Contractors and Sub-Contractors should bear in mind that the Council has extensive powers to control noise and other nuisance from building sites under the control of Pollution Act 1974 and the Environmental Protection Act 1990 if informal action fails to solve any problems. This can involve prescribing working hours and methods.

For major construction programmes or if you would like further advice and information please contact the Environmental Health Department at an early stage on 01277 312504.

Considerate Contractor Advice Note

