

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH NOISE?

If you have a problem with noise from your neighbour's place, try speaking with them first. Often a friendly word over the fence is all that is required. Failing this, you may wish to contact the Council.

Daytime noise complaints are investigated by Environmental Health staff who can be contacted by phoning the Rangitikei District Council on 06-327-0099. After hours complaints are followed up by a security company working under contract with the Council.

DOES THE ACT COVER ALL TYPES OF NOISE?

NO – There are other kinds of noise that are specifically covered or controlled by other pieces of legislation.

Barking dogs are covered by Dog Control Act 1996:

Contact the Rangitikei District Council Animal Control, ph 06-327-0099, 24 hours

Noisy Vehicles on the road are covered by Traffic Regulations:

Contact the Traffic Safety Branch of the NZ Police, Marton Police 06-327-6555

Noise within the workplace is covered by Health & Safety in Employment Act 1992:

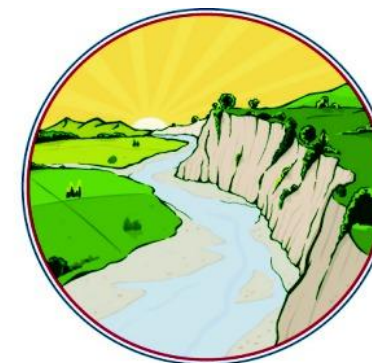
Contact OSH, Department of Labour Palmerston North 06-359-1919

Noise between tenancies with the same landlord is covered by Residential Tenancies Act 1996

Contact your landlord



NOISE CONTROL



Rangitikei
UNSPOILT...

This pamphlet is one in a series published by the Rangitikei District. It is intended to provide general information only. It is not intended as a legal document and may not be applicable to all circumstances. For specific details on any consent application, please contact:



Rangitikei District Council

Private Bag 1102
Marton
Phone: 06-327-0099
Fax: 06-327-6970
Free-phone: 0800-422-522
Email info@rangitikei.govt.nz

NOISE CONTROL PROVISIONS – THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

The noise provisions of the Resource Management Act are designed to:

- Protect the public from excessive or unreasonable noise.
- Protect the rights of people and industry to make a reasonable amount of noise.
- Generally set out the obligations on all of us to keep noise to a reasonable level.

The act requires you to ensure that noise from your property is kept to a “reasonable” level. Although there is no clear definition of what is “reasonable”, the general rule of thumb is; **noise should not be audible beyond your property boundary.**



NOISE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Everybody should expect some noise in their neighbourhood from time to time. Council does not regulate everyday activities such as mowing lawns, building construction, road repairs etc. While noise from these activities might be annoying on occasion, any nuisances caused are only temporarily and minor, provided the house of operations are reasonable.

UNREASONABLE NOISE

There are certain noisy activities in our community that the Council cannot reduce or abate immediately. This is generally in relation to industrial or commercial noise where a full noise assessment, complete with measurements, may be required to determine if the noise level is in breach of any District Plan rules.

EXCESSIVE NOISE

Excessive noise is generally under human control and defined as:

“Any noise that is under human control and of such a nature as to unreasonable interfere with the peace, comfort and convenience of any person.”

COMPLAINTS

Loud party and stereo noise are by far the most common complaints made to the Council. The assessment of the noise is subjective and noise measurements do not need to be taken.

If the noise is found to be excessive, a Noise Control Officer will:

- Direct the person responsible for causing the noise to immediately reduce it to a reasonable level. This direction may be given verbally or be written and remains in force for 72 hours
- Where written direction to reduce excessive noise to a reasonable level is not followed, the Noise Control Officer, with Police assistance, may enter the premises,

and without further notice may seize and impound whatever is making the noise, take away any working parts or lock or seal it, so as to make it inoperable.

Impounded equipment can be reclaimed when:

- The owner applies to Council.
- The Council is satisfied that the return of the equipment will not lead to resumption of the noise.
- The applicant has paid all costs incurred by the Council in seizing, transporting and storing the equipment.
- The applicant has signed a declaration form confirming the stereo will be used appropriately in the future.

To reclaim equipment you will need to apply to:

Rangitikei District Council
Private Bag 1102
Marton

