

Advice on reducing noise caused by music practice

This advice note has been produced by the Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) of City of York Council to try to minimise annoyance caused by the playing of musical instruments close to other residents.

Annoyance is more likely to be caused if the music is excessively loud or is played too often or for prolonged periods of time.

If you want to play your instrument, it is always best to approach your near neighbours and make them aware that you intend to do so. Ask them if they can hear your music and if it causes them annoyance. Try to agree specific times when they don't mind you playing your music. Talking to your neighbours may avoid complaints.

However, where no agreement is reached, the following guidelines should be followed and only apply to the playing of one instrument.

Do not practice or play music:

- For more than 45 minutes in any one day;
- In any room with your windows or doors open;
- After 8pm or before 8am Monday to Friday (or before 10am on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays);
- Outside timescales previously agreed with your neighbours;
- Within 100 metres of noise sensitive premises such as schools and hospitals.

If you are unable to follow these recommendations, you should practise in another location, further from your neighbours.

Wherever possible:

- Do not practice or play music in any room next to your neighbour's property;
- Use sound-proofed practice rooms;
- Use practice pads when drumming;
- Do not use amplifiers.

If EPU receives complaints about noise nuisance, enforcement action could be taken against you, the owner or occupiers of the premises, which could lead to a fine of up to £5000 and the seizure of your musical equipments, if you cause a noise nuisance.

If you require further advice or information on this or other noise issues, please contact the Environmental Protection Unit (EPU):

Telephone: (01904) 551555

Email: environmental.protection@york.gov.uk

Write to: EPU, Eco Depot, Hazel Court, James Street, York, YO10 3DS