

Try to complete the work as quickly as possible - don't let it drag on for months.

Switch off D.I.Y. equipment when not in use. This saves energy as well as minimising noise.

LEGISLATIVE POWERS

Under the Pollution Control and Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 the Council can impose restrictions on the carrying out of demolition / construction / building works. Persons contravening these requirements can be taken to court and fined.

If you would like more information or if you are affected by unreasonable noise and want to make a complaint then contact the Environmental Health Department at :

Armagh City and District Council
Palace Demesne
Armagh
BT60 4EL

Tel : 028 3752 9626
E-mail : ehealth@armagh.gov.uk

NOISE FROM 'DO IT YOURSELF' BUILDING WORKS



Noise from neighbours can annoy, cause stress and generally affect the quality of life in a residential area. The best way is to avoid causing a problem in the first place. This guidance note tries to assist you in dealing effectively with D.I.Y. noise.

NOISE FROM 'DO IT YOURSELF' ACTIVITIES

Most people have jobs that need to be done around the home, especially if they have just moved in or are redecorating. We have to accept that many people have jobs during the day and need to do this D.I.Y. in the evenings and at weekends. However, this does not give them permission to annoy neighbours at all hours of the day and night. We all have to be reasonable and live together.

Disturbance from D.I.Y. building work and decorating can be minimised by thinking about what type of activity you are doing and by carrying out the noisiest activities at a reasonable time. **'Noisy activities'** would include the prolonged use of the following :

Hand tools - Use of hammers, saws etc. should be restricted to the hours given on the next page.

Power Tools - Hand-held power tools (drills, saws, sanding tools etc.) can cause a lot of noise and their use should also be restricted to the hours given on the next page.

Plant - People can now hire 'professional' tools and plant such as pneumatic hammers, cement mixers, large power saws, planers, compressors, generators etc. Use of this more powerful type of equipment needs greater consideration as it is identical to that used by professional builders and can be very noisy.

It would be helpful if you could give your neighbours an indication of what work is to be done and how long the work will last.

Work on the party wall or floor between properties can give rise to surprising levels of noise. Work such as wallpaper stripping or wall preparation can sound very loud next door. Work on the floor such as plumbing, rewiring and especially sanding can be very loud downstairs.

Reasonable times for 'Do It Yourself' - We recognise that people need a rest from noise at the weekend and in the evening. It is especially important if young children are involved.

We recommend that the noisier activities are restricted to the following hours :

Week days	7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Saturday	8.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
Sunday	No noisy work at all

Ensure that you have the right equipment. Sometimes more powerful equipment will actually help solve the noise problem.

Maintenance of equipment - There is nothing worse than someone using a poorly maintained piece of old machinery which cannot cope with the job. It makes far more noise and the job will often take much longer than if you had the correct piece of equipment.

The radio - It seems most people want the radio on when they are doing D.I.Y. - it eases the burden! Please keep the volume down, especially in the evenings.