

TOP TIPS FOR KEEPING THE NOISE DOWN



FIRST THINGS FIRST, YOUR HOME

You live in a converted Georgian or Victorian building, which was built as a single house. This means that you live close to your neighbours and often share entrances and stairs. Your home is not soundproofed because it is expensive and there is no legal requirement for it. You must be mindful that

sound will travel easily between homes and you should consider how you can minimise this.

When you have guests, or if you're a leaseholder and have let your property, please remember that YOU are responsible for the actions of anyone in your home.



TOP TIPS FOR KEEPING THE NOISE DOWN

Adequate Flooring

Don't lay laminate or hardwood flooring as this makes noise from your home sound louder. Tenants must cover their floors with carpet or other similar flooring in order to comply with their tenancy conditions. We have a flooring policy to ensure residents have adequate flooring. Further details can be found in our Noise leaflet.

Alarms

Make sure that intruder alarms are serviced regularly to minimise disturbances from faults. Change batteries in smoke alarms before they expire to stop them going off alerting you to the need for new batteries.

DIY

Drilling and hammering can create a lot of noise. Whenever possible, let your neighbours know that you're planning some DIY and try to arrange to do it when they aren't sleeping.

Doors

Slamming doors can cause a disturbance, so close them gently. This includes car doors, front doors, communal entrance doors, cupboard doors and

internal doors. Slow the closing of your front door to minimise banging by fitting a door closer.

A great way to cut down the noise caused by closing cupboard doors is to use sticky furniture pads, which stops them banging. These can be used on table and chair legs too.

Fridges and Freezers

Try to put them away from shared walls.

Gardens

Gardens are a place to meet, relax and play. Remember that any noise you make in your garden will be heard by your neighbours. Be mindful when carrying out noisy activities and if a child's toy or game is extremely noisy, try to make sure that it is only used for short amounts of time.

How loud is your TV?

Be aware of how loud you have your TV and try to make sure that it won't be so loud that it's noisy in your neighbour's home. If you have a TV in your bedroom, be respectful and keep the volume low at night.

Music

We all like different types of music and this can cause problems if it's played loudly so that your neighbours can hear it.

Putting speakers on shared walls will mean that music is more likely to carry through to your neighbours. Please place speakers away from shared walls and don't place them directly on the floor or close to the ceiling because if there are people living above and/or below you the noise will disturb them more.

Headphones are good if you like to listen to loud music or at times of the day when other people will be trying to sleep.

In warm weather, open windows mean that music is carried further so it's important to turn the volume down.

If you or anyone else in your home plays an instrument, practice it at times of the day, and in a place in your home where it will cause the least disturbance to your neighbours.

Parties

If you're planning an event at home, please respect your immediate neighbours by:

- telling them in advance about your plans
- trying not to play loud music outside
- move the party inside at a reasonable hour. There are

statutory limits on noise after 11pm which if you don't follow can lead Islington Council taking action against you.

- keeping the indoor music volume low after 11pm and help by closing windows and doors during late hours
- ask your guests to leave your home quietly after the party.

Parties are fun, but a lack of respect and consideration for your neighbours can lead to a breakdown in relations. Most neighbours won't mind noise during a one-off event, especially if they have been told about it, but regular disturbances may result in action being taken against you.

Quiet Mark

When buying household appliances look out for the 'Quiet Mark' www.quietmark.com. The Quiet Mark tells you that the product 'is relatively quiet for what it is'.

Running a business from home

Tenants must get permission from Partners before running a business from home. If you do run a business from home (if you're a leaseholder check your lease –it may state that your property can only be used for residential use), please be mindful of noise

that this may generate. Where possible, take steps to minimise disruption for your neighbours.

Taxis

If you're waiting for a taxi or friend to pick you up ask them to knock on your door, ring your buzzer or telephone you, rather than sound their horn to let you know they're waiting.

Washing Machines and Tumble Dryers

Try to make sure that your washing machine/dryer is on an even floor and isn't overloaded, as this can increase noise whilst it's in use. Remember those sticky furniture pads can also be applied to the bottom of your machine.

Also, use it at times when your neighbours won't be trying to sleep and remember that the final spin is the noisiest part.

Vacuuming

Avoid vacuuming at times when your neighbours will be trying to sleep.

What can I do?

If you feel able to, talking to your neighbours is a good place to start. Approach them calmly and respectfully and explain what it is that they're doing that's disturbing you. They may not realise that you can hear them. If a neighbour talks to you about

noise please be understanding and polite. It may have taken courage for them to approach you. Try to come to a joint understanding.

Everyone makes noise, it is inevitable, but try to be respectful, considerate and fair in any discussions with your neighbours. This will hopefully lead to a happier home for everyone.

Who to contact about noise

If you do experience problems with noise which you have been unable to resolve yourself, we will support you and try to help with the problem. Please contact our Anti-Social Behaviour Team on 0800 587 3595.

If you're bothered by noise at night and feel like you can't deal with it alone you can contact the Noise Patrol Team at Islington Council on 020 7527 7272. The Noise Patrol Team will tell us about any incidents in Partners properties.

For more information please read our Anti-Social Behaviour policy and our Noise Leaflet.

