

## Waste receptacles and associated noise

Noise from commercial activities, such as waste recovery and transportation may disturb residents, disrupt sleep and interfere with normal daily activities. If loud and frequent enough, it can also affect health. This fact sheet can help contractors reduce noise emissions and meet legal requirements.

### The law

Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act 1994* includes requirements for noise nuisances. Council is legally required to enforce these noise nuisance requirements. If an investigation finds that noise from such activities constitutes an environmental nuisance, then Council may issue a direction notice. The notice details the offence, and sets a time-frame for the problem to be rectified. Non-compliance may result in a fine to the value of 15 penalty units (individual) or 75 penalty units (corporation). Refer to the Local Government Toolbox website [www.lgtoolbox.qld.gov.au](http://www.lgtoolbox.qld.gov.au) for more information about penalty units. If issues cannot be resolved, continued breaches of the Act may result in Council initiating legal action.

### The criteria

When investigating a noise complaint, Council will consider:

- the amount of noise
- the duration, rate and type of noise
- the environment and the potential impact
- views of any other neighbours or complainants
- site-specific development conditions pertaining to allowable waste collection times
- other relevant criteria.

### Ways to reduce noise

#### Limit hours of operation

Most people are concerned about noise at night and in the early morning.

#### Select location carefully

Locate waste receptacles as far away as possible from neighbours and away from sensitive areas, such as bedroom windows. If possible, relocate the waste receptacle behind a solid wall.

#### Take care with timing

Schedule collections carefully. If the receptacle is particularly noisy and sited near residences, try to organise for collection after 7am.

#### Consider modifications

Noise-reduction modifications can sometimes be made, such as larger rubber wheels mounted on bulk containers. Discuss this option with the manufacturer or installer.

#### Think of alternatives

Alternative activities or equipment may be effective in reducing noise. Consider carrying out the activity at another location; or even engaging an acoustic consultant in designing an acoustic barrier.

For more information on this topic, contact your local Council.