

Noise

Noise can often cause problems between neighbours. Here are some ways you can reduce these types of problems:

- Let your neighbours know you are having a party before the event. Give them your contact number in case they need to call you if the noise is disturbing them.
- Think about when and how loud your children are yelling and screaming. How could it impact others?
- Play musical instruments during the day behind closed doors, to minimise noise.

Certain equipment may not be used on residential premises between certain times if it can be heard inside a neighbour's house. Below are the times your neighbour should not be able to hear the following noises:

Power tools and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8pm to 8am on Sundays and public holidays • 8pm to 7am on weekdays and Saturdays
Musical instruments and electrically amplified sound equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midnight to 8am on Friday, Saturday or any day preceding a public holiday • 10pm to 8am on any other day
Air conditioners and heat pump water heaters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10pm to 8am on weekends and public holidays • 10pm to 7am on weekdays
Motor vehicles (except when entering or leaving residential premises)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8pm to 8am on weekends and public holidays • 8pm to 7am on weekdays
Refrigeration units fitted to motor vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8pm to 8am on weekends and public holidays • 8pm to 7am on weekdays

If the noise is occurring you should contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 9952 8222 during office hours, or contact the local police if urgent attention is required after hours (eg loud parties, noisy intruder alarms).

Benefits of being a good neighbour:

- You may strike up a lifelong friendship
- You can have someone to pick up your mail or check on your house while you're away
- You will have someone to borrow that cup of sugar from
- You may feel safer and less isolated in your neighbourhood
- You may feel more connected to your community

How you can be a good neighbour:

- Talk to your neighbour
- Invite your neighbour to a barbeque
- Consider your neighbours when you play loud music or use power tools
- Let your neighbours know when you are having a party before the party
- If your neighbours find it hard to bring their bins in, why not offer to do it for them?
- Take pride in your house, it can be the biggest investment you make
- Be responsible for your visitors



Being a Good Neighbour

information to help prevent neighbourly disputes

Being a Good Neighbour

Common issues that cause neighbourly disputes

Having good neighbours can make a big difference to our lives, contributing to a happy, healthy and peaceful environment.

Understanding what you can and can't do is important. Following are some of the laws, regulations and activities which help guide our day-to-day living.

Volunteering

Volunteering is a great way to help you connect with people in the local community.

Ryde Community Volunteers is a service run by Council that can connect you with many volunteering opportunities, such as bushcare groups, community or sporting organisations and many more.

To find out more or register as a volunteer, contact Ryde Community Volunteers on 9952 8303.



We live in a multicultural society, so understanding that different cultures have different ways of doing things is important. Accepting these differences is an key part of being a good neighbour.

Garden care

Often overgrown trees or shrubs can impact on your neighbours.

Consider trimming the trees on your side of the fence so that they don't create a problem for your neighbour.

If you are going away for a long period, organise to have someone maintain your garden. Overgrown gardens can look unsightly and can also attract vermin.

Pet care

Overly loud or constant barking of a dog can be annoying to some. Consider others when you leave your animal by itself, at night time or in the early morning.

Remember, not all neighbours want to be woken up by a barking dog.

Dumped rubbish

Dumped rubbish is unsightly and it encourages others to add to the pile, which can become dangerous.

The City of Ryde provides five FREE Council pick-ups a year. Contact Council to find out when your next collection is due. Remember items MUST only be put out the weekend before the due date.

Tips if you are having a problem with your neighbour...

Often people do not realise that what they are doing impacts you. In a friendly tone, talk to your neighbour about your concerns and see if you can come to an agreement which will limit the impact on everyone.

Have a conversation with your neighbour before calling Council or the Police to intervene.

Burning off

Burning garden refuse and other waste in incinerators in the open can annoy neighbours and it pollutes the air.

It is prohibited in the Sydney Metropolitan Area and offenders may be fined for illegal burning off.

Owners of fireplaces and occupiers of industrial and commercial premises must take all practicable means to prevent or minimise air pollution.

If pollution is occurring at the time, residents should contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 9952 8222 during office hours, or the EPA Pollution Line if urgent attention is required or after hours on 131 555.

Development

Often problems with neighbours arise when a neighbour decides to build something on their land. If a development application is required, neighbours are informed of the works. Any concerns should be directed to Council on 9952 8222.

The operating hours of commercial and industrial premises are generally restricted by development consent conditions. The operating noise level of plant and equipment on these premises may also be restricted by consent conditions.

In some instances, mediation may be required. Disputes between neighbours should be referred to:

Law Access NSW
1300 888 529
For free general information

The Law Society of NSW
9926 0300
For names of private solicitors

Community Justice Centre
1800 990 777
For mediation services