

Good Neighbours

Everyone expects and deserves to be able to live in their own home without too much nuisance or annoyance from their neighbours. Although people's lifestyles differ, we hope that you will be considerate towards your neighbours. This should apply not only to your own actions but to the behaviour of your visitors.

There are a number of factors which can cause, contribute to and exacerbate conflict between neighbours and this leaflet explains how people can minimise the risk of annoying neighbours by being considerate in their activities.

Noise

Noise is one of the main factors which can cause conflict between neighbours.

Noise can be defined as unwanted sound which disturbs, irritates and causes stress.

Neighbourhood noise is created by residents and visitors undertaking normal day to day activities and has become a major source of complaint in recent years.

Noise related problems can be overcome by using a little common sense and by being aware of how noise can impact on neighbours.

There are many common causes of noise.

D.I.Y.

D.I.Y. and building activities should be restricted to times of day least likely to disturb neighbours. In general terms you should refrain from carrying out any activities involving drilling or hammering before 8am or after 8pm.

People should, if possible, notify their neighbours in advance of undertaking any D.I.Y. activity that may generate noise. You should make your neighbours aware of what you are planning to do, how long you will be working and explain that there may be some disturbance associated with the planned activity.

Household appliances

Washing machines, dishwashers, tumble dryers and vacuum cleaners should not be used late at night and early in the morning.

Music and T.V.

Think about the volume when using your tv or music system and try to ensure that your music or tv does not disturb others, particularly early morning or late at night.

Pull tv speakers away from your neighbour's wall, raise music speakers from the floor and consider using headphones. Text can also be used on tv's for people with hearing difficulties.

The police have powers within section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 to confiscate music equipment or tv's where excessive noise is an ongoing problem.

Pets

Howling and barking dogs inside and outside the home can cause significant annoyance. Try to ensure your pet is not left alone in the home for lengthy periods during the day.

Any tenant whose dog causes a regular annoyance may be asked to remove it from the home. It is important to note that noise nuisance is seldom caused by properly trained and well supervised pets.

Household arguments and disputes

Household arguments and disputes which involve raised voices can cause disturbance and stress to neighbours who are not involved. Try to resolve domestic arguments peacefully and remember that good neighbours can make life much happier.

Vehicle noise

Vehicle repairs and servicing within the vicinity of the property should be kept to a minimum and carried out at times of the day unlikely to disturb neighbours.

Playing music while you work is acceptable, but not when the whole street has to share it. Commercial repair of vehicles within the confines of the property is not permitted.

Social events

It is recognised that there are occasions when tenants may wish to hold social events within their homes e.g. birthday parties, special events, new year celebrations etc.

Such events are acceptable but you should take care to avoid unnecessary disturbance of neighbours and it may be helpful to check that you are not causing a nuisance.

Warning neighbours in advance about parties and noise levels would also be beneficial.

Children

Given the high proportion of family housing in the area, tenants need to be tolerant of the needs of children. Children also must be aware of the needs of others and how their behaviour can impact on other residents.

Tenants should remember that play is an important activity for children and in the case of young children, it is safer for them to play nearer to their home. A certain amount of noise in any street must be expected and this will be more prevalent during the summer months and in school holiday periods. Children and young

people should avoid playing ball games off gable walls or in areas set aside for car parking where there is a risk of damage to parked cars.

Respect for others

Tenants deserve respect and the right to a peaceful existence. Children and young people should be encouraged to avoid unnecessary disturbance, particularly of elderly and other vulnerable people.

Children can often be involved in bullying which can aggravate neighbour problems. If your child is a victim of this, you are advised to speak to other parents or teachers.

Parental control

The primary responsibility for children lies with their parents. Tenants are encouraged to make sure that they know where their children are at all times. Parents are also encouraged to instil a sense of responsibility into their children and to make them aware of what type of behaviour is acceptable and what is not.

Elderly tenants

Elderly tenants can be particularly vulnerable, and we would ask that you try to make an effort to check on their wellbeing, especially during winter months. If you have any concerns regarding the wellbeing of elderly neighbours, please contact the Association.

Gardens, back courts and common closes

If you have a garden attached to your house/flat, please ensure that it is maintained to a reasonable standard in order to preserve the physical environment within the area. Cut grass frequently and keep gardens free of litter and debris. If you stay in a tenement property, please ensure that controlled entry doors are kept closed.

Please do not store toys, bicycles etc on landings or in service cupboards.

If a stair cleaning service is not provided, please ensure that stairs and landings are swept and cleaned on a weekly basis with each tenant being responsible for taking their turn of cleaning in rotation with their neighbours. Bin stores should be kept clean and tidy with rubbish placed in refuse bags before being deposited in bins.

Tenants should also ensure that wheelie bins are taken to the designated point for collection on uplift days and returned to the bin store after they have been emptied.

What can you do?

You can help your area become a better place to live by showing consideration for and having respect for other people. Think about your actions and consequences and strive to become a good neighbour by implementing some of the suggestions outlined in this leaflet.

If you experience problems caused by noise disturbance or irresponsible behaviour, please contact the Police or the Association as appropriate.

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