

# Neighbourhood noise - stereos



## Environmental Health

In Western Australia the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997* sets limits on noise emissions. These regulations are enforced by police officers and Environmental Health Officers.

The noise regulations set decibel levels for different times of the day and week that should not be exceeded at the premises *receiving* the noise, i.e. the nearest neighbour's dwelling. The levels vary during the day to reflect the changes in sensitivity to noise in residential areas. The table below is an indication of the noise permitted by the Regulations.

Time/Day	Permitted decibels (approximately)
7.00am to 7.00pm Monday to Saturday	45dB
9.00am to 7.00pm Sunday and public holidays	40dB
7.00pm to 10.00pm all days	40dB
10.00pm to 7.00am Monday to Saturday and 10.00pm to 9.00am Sunday and public holidays	35dB

## How do I know if my stereo volume meets permitted levels?

The image on the back page will give you an idea of how the decibel levels in the table above correspond to everyday sounds.

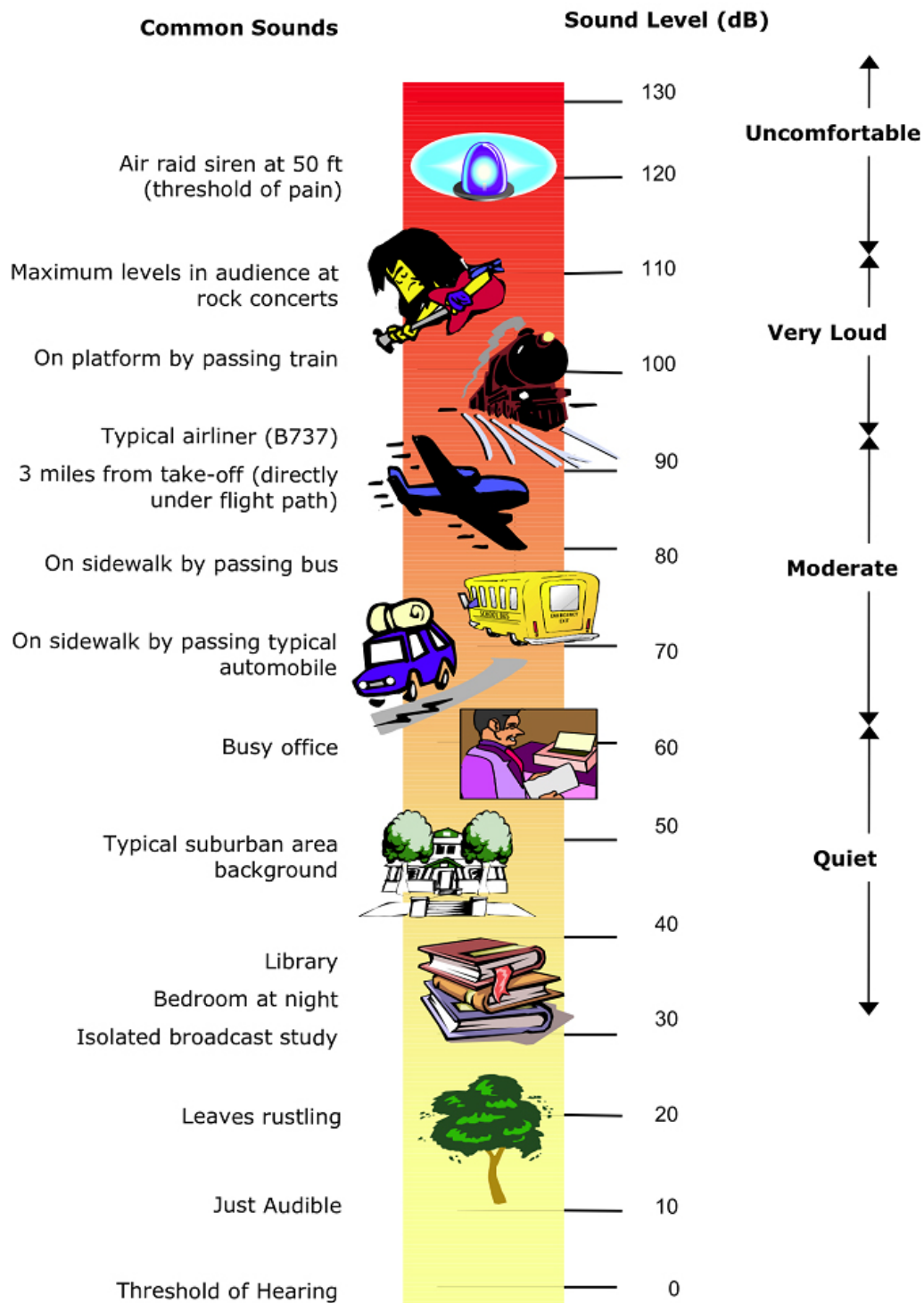


A good way to judge if your stereo is too loud is to go outside and listen for it at the boundary of your property. If the lyrics or beat can be clearly heard, then it will not meet the permitted levels. It will also be entering neighbouring homes and causing a disturbance.

If you live in a villa complex, flat or townhouse you are at higher risk of disturbing your neighbours. In these situations stereos must be kept at a much quieter volume to meet the permitted levels at the adjacent house or dividing wall.

## What are the penalties?

Fines start at \$250 and can be issued if complaints are received about regular noise emissions. Subsequent offences can be subject to \$500 fines. You can also have your stereo equipment seized or face court with penalties up to \$62,500 if found guilty.



Source: *Handbook of Environmental Acoustics*, James P. Cowan, 1994

### Further information

This is a guide only. For more information, please contact Environmental Health at the Shire of Augusta Margaret River on 9780 5255.