



Being a good neighbour

**Being a good neighbour can make
your community friendlier and safer.**

**By looking out for each other you can
keep you and your neighbours safe.**





Be friendly

Say hello to each other.



Be tolerant

No neighbour can always be perfect and we all have different lifestyles.



Be respectful

Think about the impact you have on your neighbours in the way you act. Respect each other's privacy.

You can reduce your noise levels by:

- Informing your neighbours beforehand if you are planning on doing noisy activities, such as hosting a party or DIY work, and if appropriate finish at an agreed time. Try to avoid doing noisy DIY work, such as drilling, after 9pm as this is likely to cause annoyance.
- Positioning speakers and washing machines away from neighbour's walls.
- Avoid using appliances such as washing machines and vacuum cleaners after 9pm.
- Lowering the bass on your music system
low frequency noise travels further than high frequency noise. Avoid taking speakers or radios outside. If you want to play music, play video games or watch TV loudly, use headphones.
- Where possible keep doors and windows shut. This will help contain any noise.
Avoid slamming doors.
- Ensuring any alarms such as vehicle alarms or burglar alarms are serviced regularly to reduce the chance that they will malfunction.
- Avoiding sounding your car horn or revving your car engine between 11pm and 8am.
- Keeping in mind there is less background noise at night time which means that noise can be more disturbing than it would be during the day.
- Wearing slippers or soft shoes if your floor is someone else's ceiling. This can help reduce the noise, especially if you have a wood or laminate floor.

Top tips to being a good neighbour:

1. Be practically helpful - take in parcels or post and help out when it's time to put the bins out, or bring them in.
2. Put rubbish in the correct bins and ensure bins are put out on collection day (and brought back in following collection).
3. Ensure any bulky items for disposal are kept in your property until ready for collection.
4. Understand that it is inevitable that people will have social events and children will play outside.
5. Take responsibility for the behaviour of both your children and visitors to your home.
6. Speak to neighbours if you are aware that you may have caused noise (for example, your children were playing loudly). Acknowledging that it may have caused annoyance and apologising, can help resolve matters.



Top tips to being a good neighbour:

7. Keep your home and garden clean and tidy.
8. Keep hedges and trees trimmed and pruned to ensure they don't overhang onto public footpaths and private gardens.
9. Keep pets under control - do not allow them to foul public areas and gardens.
10. Park vehicles with consideration to your neighbours. Try to avoid parking at dropped kerbs, outside garages, or in a way that prevents wheelchair users and prams from using the pavement. Do not block any entrances or disrupt access for emergency services.
11. Remember that domestic bonfires are not illegal, however if you do decide to have one, let your neighbours know beforehand. Additionally, only burn clean dry material, as damp material can cause a bonfire to become very smoky.



If you have any issues:

Try to discuss this with them in a polite manner. Consider if there is anything you are doing that could be contributing to the problems.

Remember that we must work within the legislation available to us and therefore may not be able to assist in every situation.

You can also seek civil redress by speaking to a solicitor about the issue.

Where appropriate, you may wish to report the concerns to us, or, where a crime is committed, to the police. If you have not been able to resolve the issues between yourselves, if your neighbour lives in a rented property then you may wish to raise your concern with their landlord.

Keep a record of what's happening.





better homes and better
services for better lives