Do-It- Yourself (D.I.Y) Guidance

**Before starting work:**

It is good practice to have a discussion with your neighbours about any DIY works you intend to carry out.

* How long is the work to take?
* Will materials be delivered, if so what times etc.
* Are any of the works you intend to carry out noisy, i.e. drilling, hammering etc.
* Agree quieter times if DIY works are to be carried out all day.

Keep noisy activities to reasonable hours and ensure that the equipment is appropriate for the task.

**Noisy activities include:**

* using hand tools - hammers and saws
* using power tools - hand held tools including drills, saws, and sanders
* using plant equipment - this includes 'Kango' hammers, pneumatic hammers or vibrators, cement mixers, large power saws, planers, compressors and generators
* partition walls - work on partition walls between dwellings will produce high levels of noise for neighbours.

**Be considerate**

Restrict your DIY activities to the following hours:

* Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm
* Saturdays 9am to 5pm
* Sundays and Bank Holidays 10am to 2pm.

Try to keep doors and windows closed, except in situations where dust and fumes are produced. This will reduce the level of noise caused by tools, radios and stereo systems.

**Building Works**

Building works carried out by professional builders or building companies must follow the guidelines below.

Where residential occupiers are likely to be affected by noise, the hours of work will normally be restricted to:-

* Monday – Friday: 8am – 6pm
* Saturday: 8am – 1pm
* Sunday and Bank Holidays: No work where noise audible at site boundary.

If you are refurbishing your property yourself and are completing major construction you must follow the same guidelines as professional builders/building companies.

**Emergency Work:**

Sometimes serious problems arise, such as electrical faults, water leaks. This may mean there may be noise at unsociable hours.

If the faults are not posing any danger, see if the repairs can be carried out during the hours permitted.

**Disposal of Waste**

Please note that any waste produced as a result of DIY, or any other type of building works must be stored and disposed of responsibly and legally. Additionally Lewisham is a smoke control area which is to promote a clean air approach for all. Therefore the burning of waste is prohibited and it is recommended to use Council facilities to dispose of any waste responsibly (details can be found online or by visiting; <https://lewisham.gov.uk/organizations/fantastic-waste-removals>).

If you, or someone you’ve employed to carry out building works, do chose to hire someone else to dispose of your waste then please ensure that they are able to do so legally by checking if they been licensed by the Environmental Agency. This can be done by visiting <https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/wasterecycle/other-waste-and-recycling/licensed-waste-carriers>.

Please be minded that waste stored in gardens may be subject to enforcement should there be any concerns of harbourage for pests and vermin, may prove to be a health and safety risk, or encroaching on public land or any other land without permission (fly tipping). It will be your responsibility to ensure your waste is correctly disposed. Failure to do so may result in a fine or Court action.