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How to be a good neighbour



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Spire Homes is committed to ensuring that every tenant enjoys their right to a decent environment. This leaflet provides information on how YOU can assist in ensuring that your neighbourhood is a nice place to live.

Dogs Barking

The constant barking or whining of a dog can cause considerable nuisance to neighbours. Often the problem occurs when the owner is away from the property and it is only when complaints are received that the owner becomes aware of the problem.

Some Suggestions ... Try not to leave your dog for long periods of time. If this is unavoidable, try to:

- Feed and exercise him before you go out.
- Make sure that his bed / basket is comfortable and there are toys to play with.
- Check that the room temperature is not too hot or cold.
- Arrange for someone else to check on him or take him for a walk.
- If you won't be home until after dark, leave a light on.
- If you keep your dog in an outside kennel, make sure the kennel is not too close to your neighbour's fence, where he may be encouraged to bark.
- If you have a dog which barks constantly for no apparent reason, you can hire an anti-barking collar from the local Dog Warden at an approximate cost of £7 per week.

Where you park your car, or the manner in which you drive your car can cause frustration to other people.

Some Suggestions ...

- If you have a driveway or garage, use it. If you don't, then ensure that you do not block other people's access to their property. Do not park on pavements or grass verges.
- If you have your music loud whilst in your car, make sure that it is turned down on approach to your property and when you leave.
- Car alarms can be a great source of annoyance. If you have an alarm on your car, make sure that it is not over-sensitive.
- If you need to repair your car, make sure that this does not cause a nuisance to your neighbours.

Some Suggestions ...

- If there are areas of your home that aren't carpeted, please bear in mind that noise levels will be much higher.
- Appreciate that individuals have different lifestyles and what may be acceptable for one person may not be for another:
- Have consideration for your neighbour who works nights and sleeps during the day.
- If your neighbour has a disability, consider that they may need to park their car outside your property if this is the shortest distance for them to their front door.

Property Alarms

Alarms that sound regularly for no apparent reason, not only cause distress to neighbours, but also reduce the likelihood of anyone responding to the alarm.

Some Suggestions ...

- Make sure that either yourself or a keyholder can be contacted if your alarm goes off.
- Ensure that the alarm is serviced annually to check that it is working correctly.

Cars

A car, for many people, can be more than a means of getting from A to B. However, your car can be a source of annoyance to others.

Parties

Most of us like to entertain in our home. However, steps should be taken to minimise the nuisance caused to our neighbours.

Some Suggestions ...

- If you are planning a party, warn your neighbours in advance, even invite them.
- Ensure that guests leave your premises quietly.
- Try not to have too many parties in a short period of time - persistent parties can be anti-social.

Bonfires

Although there are no regulations which stipulate the times when you can have a bonfire, it is important to consider how this could affect your neighbours.

- If you are planning a bonfire, it is courteous to inform your immediate neighbours.
- Prior to lighting bonfires, please ensure that your neighbours do not have washing hanging out to dry.
- Make sure that you keep bonfires away from fences and hedges and that the flames remain under control **AT ALL TIMES**.

Stereos and Televisions

Music or televisions that are excessively loud can cause severe nuisance to neighbours. Not everyone has the same taste in music and it can be very frustrating having to listen to someone else's music.

Some Suggestions ...

- Try to keep the volume of your television or stereo at a reasonable level. Consider using headphones if you have to have the volume particularly loud.
- Keep all equipment and speakers facing away from walls, which transmit the sound through them. Similarly, try to raise the speakers off the floor.
- Keep your music to a reasonable level and play it at reasonable times, particularly when you have your windows open or are in the garden.
- Think about the times that you listen to music or watch television - what may be an acceptable noise level during the day may not be acceptable during the evening or early hours.

Household Chores and DIY

Whilst it has to be appreciated and accepted that people will carry out household chores and mow their lawns and indulge in a bit of DIY, there are occasions when this can cause nuisance and annoyance to neighbours.

Some Suggestions ...

- Think about the times that you are completing these activities; hammering at 11 o'clock at night or mowing the lawn at 7 o'clock on a Sunday morning can be anti-social.
- Equipment such as washing machines can cause noise. Some people prefer to use their washing machines throughout the night, as it is slightly cheaper, but this can be anti-social.
- Try to do all household activities in moderation. Bear in mind that continual DIY can cause severe nuisance to neighbours.

Children Playing

Whilst it is appreciated that all children play, it is important that parents/guardians ensure that their children's enjoyment is not at the expense of their neighbours.

Some suggestions ...

- Make sure that ball games are played in a safe place, away from windows and doors.
- If you allow your children to play in the street, please ensure that their games do not cause a disturbance to other residents and / or their homes and gardens.

General Household Noise

General household noise should be tolerated provided it is not excessive. It has to be accepted that a certain amount of noise will be generated when a person is living in a property. There may be circumstances however, when such noise can become an annoyance to neighbours and there are steps that can be taken to reduce this.