

LIVING NEAR A QUARRY

NOISE MANAGEMENT

Quarries play an important role in our day-to-day lives. They provide the stone, sand and gravel that's used to build our roads, hospitals, schools and our homes.

To ensure this important infrastructure remains affordable, it's important these natural materials are sourced locally – close to where they are used. That's why you find quarries operating in and around the communities that use their products. For the most part, you wouldn't know they were there.

The quarrying industry operates to strict conditions and is committed to minimising the impact of its operations on local communities and environments. But if you live close by a quarry, you may hear the quarry operating.

The following information will help explain why this occurs and what quarry managers and government regulators do to minimise any impact on those living nearby.

WHAT DOES A QUARRY PRODUCE?

The most common materials produced by a quarry are construction aggregates such as crushed rock, sand or gravel. These materials are used to make concrete, asphalt, road base, rail ballast and a range of other construction products.

WHAT CAUSES NOISE AT A QUARRY?

The production of crushed rock, sand or gravel aggregates involves the extraction, crushing, screening and stockpiling of materials and their subsequent transport to where they will be used.

The type and number of possible noise sources will vary depending on the nature and size of the quarry but noise may arise from the operation of mobile equipment within the quarry as well as the extraction process, which may include blasting. The crushing and screening processes may also be potential sources of noise.



HOW IS NOISE REGULATED AND MONITORED?

Well before a quarry is established, extensive planning and development is carried out to determine the best way to build and manage the quarry and to minimise any impact the operations may have on the environment and local community.

The Government sets strict limits on the amount of noise that can come from a quarry. During operation, noise monitoring is undertaken in and around the quarry to ensure compliance with the environmental licence.



WILL I HEAR ANY NOISE AT MY HOME?

Whether you notice any noise will depend on various factors, such as how close you live to the quarry, the weather, the time of day and if a blast has been scheduled for that day. It also depends on the noise mitigation strategies that have been adopted by the quarry.

It's also important to remember that most quarries are only allowed to operate at less sensitive times of the day, and are often restricted from operating outside daylight hours, Sundays and public holidays. Your local quarry manager will be able to advise you of the hours of operation.

HOW DO QUARRIES MANAGE NOISE?

Quarries undertake a number of measures to minimise the noise levels from their operations. These measures may include:

- Site planning to locate noise sources away from residents
- Maintaining land buffer zones to minimise noise levels at all surrounding residences
- Enclosing plant operations
- Scheduling any blasting during daytime hours
- Modifying the reversing beepers on mobile equipment to reduce noise emissions
- Designing the quarry with high grounds and earth mounds to minimise noise impacts
- Lining crusher plant bins with resilient materials to reduce impact noise
- Adherence to strict truck, plant, equipment, maintenance and repurchasing schedules to ensure less engine noise and running emissions
- Haul road design to minimise noise emissions from mobile equipment.

IS THERE SOMEONE I CAN TALK TO IF I HAVE FURTHER CONCERNS?

Your local quarry will have community engagement strategies that include consultation with local residents. This provides a mechanism to raise any concerns you may have and at the same time allow the quarry manager to explain the operation in detail and provide assurances that its operations are safe and proper. You can find out more by contacting your local quarry.



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