

Guidelines

Noise awareness and mitigation for musicians

Drums and other percussion



- **Mesh heads, low-volume cymbals, rubber pads** reduce kit loudness by 75-90%.
- **DIY:** Towels over heads, blanket on floor tom, rolled mat inside kick. If external damping ruins the feel, try placing the noise absorbing material inside the shells instead.
- **Raised drum platform or thick rug** stops vibration reaching floors.
- **Room improvement** using drums shields/enclosures, isolation mats, thick rugs, acoustic foam on walls/ceilings can drastically improve noise escape.

If after using all of these you or the complainant is still not happy, an **electric drum kit** may be the only option left.

Amplified guitars and basses



- **Use headphones.** Most modern amps have a headphone jack that still preserves the amps tone.
- **Using a tube amp?** Add a load box / Attenuator before headphones to protect the tubes/valves.
- **Pocket "headphone amps"** (e.g., Vox amPlug, Aguilar amPlug) cost around \$100 and can emulate the tone of many popular amps.
- **Dial back bass (30-125hz)** Dialling back the bass on either an external eq pedal or amplifier can curb long-distance bass while preserving clarity.
- **Rug under the speaker + soft furniture behind** = less boom, tighter tone from less reverberations.

Wind instruments



- **Fabric or mesh bell covers** reduces the volume of a wind/horn instrument without harming the tone.
- **Mutes** using either a straight, cup, or Harmon mute to lower the volume of the instrument without harming tone.
- **Silent brass systems** a device that combines a mute with an internal mic to allow for headphone use with a wind instrument.

Guidelines

Noise awareness and mitigation for musicians

Pianos and keyboards



- **Electronic keyboards/synths:** lowering the volume or using built in headphones.
- **Upright pianos:** engage the middle practice pedal (felt strip) for quieter playing.
- **Grand or upright:** retrofit silencing systems which allows headphone playback.
- **Room tweaks:** repositioning the keyed instrument away from adjoining walls. Angling the output away from sensitive areas. Placing a thick rug under the piano + acoustic panels/blankets nearby to dampen sound reflections.



Treating the space: Soundproofing vs sound dampening

	What it does	Achieved through
Sound Proofing	Completely preventing sound from leaving the room.	Structural changes.
Sound Dampening	Soak up sound reflections.	Heavy rugs and couches. Acoustic tiles. DIY panels.

Need assistance?

Contact a City of Kalamunda Environmental Health Officer
9257 9813 | enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au