

# Noisy Heat Pumps

**As the District grows we're seeing more homes being built on smaller sections.**

Smaller sections mean that you need to pay closer attention to products which both eliminate and produce noise.

While a heat pump is not assessed under the Building Consent application, and therefore not checked or signed off under any building inspection, some models produce noise which is deemed excessive under the District Plan.

The onus is upon the individual/landlord to ensure that it complies with your local council's District Plan rules.

**Below are questions to ask yourself before installing a heat pump:**

- **Does your heat pump comply with the permitted noise levels allowed by the Waimakariri District Council?**  
i.e. Does the noise produced from your heat pump measure less than 50dBA during the day and less than 40dBA at other times? You may not be allowed to use it if complaints are received.
- **Where are you mounting the unit?**  
The level of noise produced by your heat pump will depend upon the size, the location and how it has been fixed/mounted.

It is common sense that heat pumps will produce some noise as they do contain a compressor and fan. However what is regarded as 'acceptable noise' is a personal and subjective opinion.

Please note that if the unit makes a constant penetrating monotone engine noise similar to generators or water heater pumps, then those types



of noise may cause significant issues for neighbours who will render the noise 'unreasonable'. Such noise may not even be exceeding the noise levels but will potentially still be rated as 'unreasonable'.

Most noise issues occur when the outdoor unit is located too close to the neighbouring boundary or not raised off the ground.

Noise specifications will be found in the sales brochure, and you are advised to check these prior to purchase and installation.

If you are having a heat pump installed, make sure the installer is trade qualified to install air conditioning units and heat pumps. The installer should be a member of IRHACE.

**NOTE:** Have your heat pump installed by a qualified installer.

Find out more at [waimakariri.govt.nz](http://waimakariri.govt.nz), or contact Customer Services on 0800 965 468.