

# Being a Good Neighbour

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## Being a Good Neighbour

To be a good neighbour you must show respect to others and do nothing that might cause upset or misunderstanding. This is mostly caused by inconsiderate behaviour.

Below are some of the most common issues which result in neighbours falling out. If you can avoid these, then you will be able to have a good relationship with your neighbours.

- ❖ Inconsiderate parking - Blocking neighbours access to property or drive
- ❖ Loud music or television - Having the volume too high
- ❖ Barking dog - Leaving your dog to howl all day
- ❖ Unsupervised children - Children behaving badly, screaming or misbehaving
- ❖ Bad language - Swearing in or outside your house
- ❖ Summer barbeques - Late night barbeques which can be very loud when your neighbours are trying to go to sleep
- ❖ Ignoring your neighbours - Deliberately ignoring your neighbours can be seen as a gesture of dislike
- ❖ Slamming doors - The sound of a slamming door is very annoying

Much of the anti-social behaviour reported involves low level nuisance and disputes between neighbours. Here are some handy tips on how to be a good neighbour and avoid conflict:

- ❖ Keep in touch with your neighbour, say hello and talk to each other. Always show each other respect in all you do
- ❖ Don't have the volume on your TV, Radio or music player too loud. Be even more mindful at night or if your windows are open
- ❖ When your visitors come ask them not to beep their vehicle horns, not to whistle or shout to get your attention and ensure that they do not buzz other neighbours door bells or kick communal doors to try and get in the building
- ❖ Look out for each other -If your neighbour is going away offer to put out their bins for them and keep an eye on their house
- ❖ Keep neighbours informed - If you are having a party, a barbecue or other gatherings at your home, let neighbours know a couple of days in advance that you will do your best to keep noise down and ensure considerate parking. If you are planning on burning garden rubbish let your neighbours know in advance so they can keep their washing in
- ❖ Position your fridge, freezer or stereo speakers away from shared walls, close doors quietly as sound travels
- ❖ If you have a dog, try not to let it bark for long periods of time
- ❖ Try to use your washing machine or vacuum cleaner during the day
- ❖ If you play a musical instrument, do not practise early in the morning or late at night
- ❖ Try not to make excessive noise between the hours of 7pm and 8am on weekdays or Saturdays and before 10am or after 5pm on a Sunday

## You only Get Back What You Give Out

Everybody needs a little help now and again. It may be a car engine which has stalled and the owner needs a little push to get it started, or you're asked to take in a parcel on behalf

of a neighbour who's out at work. It could be any kind of small favour actually. However, the more you give out, the more you'll get back. If people find you friendly, helpful, considerate and approachable, you're far more likely to receive a similar response from them. Don't forget the old adage "the more you look out for people, the more they'll look out for you."