

Premises and vehicle alarms



Alarms

This leaflet sets out general information and your responsibilities relating to having an alarm. However, it is not a full explanation of the law. An alarm is intended to draw people's attention to a property or vehicle. However, it can lead to noise complaints if it is left ringing for a long time.

Alarms on premises

If you have an alarm to protect your property you must make sure it does not cause a nuisance to your neighbours and the general public.

To avoid causing a nuisance, your alarm system must be fitted with a device that automatically disconnects the bell or buzzer no more than 20 minutes after the alarm goes off. The system can have a flashing light which will continue to flash after the sound has stopped to alert the public and police.

The alarm system should be properly designed, installed and maintained to prevent false alarms.

The company that installed the alarm should also be able to give you more advice.

If you have an alarm you should do the following:

- Give your local police station the names, addresses and contact phone numbers of at least two people who can turn the alarm off if you are not available.
- Tell us about the alarm and which police station you have given details to.

You can register your key holder details with us online at www.rochford.gov.uk/alarms. There is no charge for registering your details.

If we witness an alarm that is causing a statutory noise nuisance, we will issue an 'abatement notice' telling the person responsible to stop causing the nuisance, or to prevent it from happening again.

In some cases we will get a warrant to enter the premises and disconnect the alarm that is causing the nuisance.

The person responsible for the alarm would have to pay our costs of doing this. These costs may be more than £200.

Vehicle alarms

Vehicle alarms can cause a nuisance. If you have an alarm to protect your vehicle you must know your legal responsibilities.

Under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, all vehicle alarms must have a device that disconnects the alarm after five minutes. Under section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended by the Noise and Statutory Nuisances Act 1993) the 'registered keeper' of a vehicle must not allow an alarm to go off frequently or for a long time.

To avoid causing a nuisance you must do the following:

- Set your alarm to a reasonable level of sensitivity to prevent 'false alarms'.
- Keep your alarm system in good working order.

Vehicle alarms

If we witness a vehicle alarm that is causing a statutory noise nuisance, we will issue an 'abatement notice' telling the person responsible for the vehicle to stop causing the nuisance, or to prevent it from happening again.

If, after an hour, the nuisance has not stopped, we may disconnect the alarm or remove the vehicle.

The person responsible for the vehicle would have to pay our costs of doing this. These costs may be more than £200.

Further details

To register your key holder details for your premises alarm online, or to download a form, please visit www.rochford.gov.uk/alarms. Registration is free.

If you are being disturbed by an alarm please call our customers services on 01702 318111.

More information on noise nuisance is given in our leaflet 'Noise' and booklet 'Noise nuisance'.

You can view or download a copy of these leaflets from our website at www.rochford.gov.uk/noise

Rochford District Council

Council Offices, South Street, Rochford,
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Phone: **01702 318111**

Email: customerservices@rochford.gov.uk

Website: www.rochford.gov.uk/noise

If you would like this information in
large print, Braille or another
language phone us on
01702 318111