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Subject: Complaining neighbors  
Posted by [ABtoJayZ](#) on Sun, 08 Apr 2018 03:14:19 GMT  
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I live in a duplex and try to be as respectful as I can with my music volume. My new neighbor complained about the volume of my music. So I've been careful about it. Lo and behold, they're complaining again. There's no way I'm making that much noise. They keep threatening to get our property manager involved. What's a good tool/way to measure noise levels?

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Subject: Re: Complaining neighbors  
Posted by [johnnycamp5](#) on Sun, 08 Apr 2018 16:18:28 GMT  
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A db meter.

Will the property manager allow you to make modifications?

Putting up an additional layer of drywall can help dramatically, and it's not very difficult.

A layer of 5/8's adhered (16" on center) with a soft adhesive or "green glue" can work wonders. Don't forget to remove the few screws that held the sheets up once the glue dries...you want the new drywall layer decoupled from the old wall, and leaving the screws can help create a sonic "short circuit" to the original wall.

Better yet is to frame a wall directly across (but not touching) your shared (common) wall, using flimsy 1-5/8ths metal studs or resilient channel, 2' on center, with 5/8ths sheathing.

This flimsy wall (aside from acting as a large panel bass absorber) will almost completely decouple your room from theirs, except for the attachments at the ceiling and floor. These points can also be somewhat decoupled using rubber strips (I use cheap 10' lengths of rubber, garage door bottom seal from the depot) above and below your ceiling and floor starter tracks.

In the past, all common/shared walls were always built out of solid masonry, to avoid the possibility of noise disturbance from the adjacent living space, and also to act as a fire stop.

Of course this way of construction is more expensive.

Good luck!

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Subject: Re: Complaining neighbors  
Posted by [JazzHog](#) on Sat, 21 Jul 2018 12:40:48 GMT  
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Yes, I would be inclined to go down the road of soundproofing your home. If the neighbours can't hear anything, then they won't have anything to complain about.

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Subject: Re: Complaining neighbors  
Posted by [sawyer25](#) on Thu, 27 Sep 2018 18:08:57 GMT  
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Soundproofing is the best way out but just out of curiosity, do they live so close by? They are neighbors who will always start trouble irrespective of whether or not there is a genuine reason to do so.

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Subject: Re: Complaining neighbors  
Posted by [Jethro](#) on Tue, 13 Nov 2018 23:48:52 GMT  
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sawyer25 wrote on Thu, 27 September 2018 13:08 Soundproofing is the best way out but just out of curiosity, do they live so close by? They are neighbors who will always start trouble irrespective of whether or not there is a genuine reason to do so.  
Based on what ABtoJayZ, the house they are living in is a duplex, meaning it is a house divided in two. Sounds travel faster through solids, so it is no surprise if the neighbors will complain because the barrier won't block the sound.

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Subject: Re: Complaining neighbors  
Posted by [Acacia](#) on Mon, 08 Mar 2021 09:13:27 GMT  
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Since it's more high-tech now, there are mobile applications you could install that can measure noise levels. Although I'm not sure about its accuracy because its effectiveness might depend on the environment it is used.

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Subject: Re: Complaining neighbors  
Posted by [Csharp](#) on Sun, 20 Aug 2023 20:11:46 GMT  
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JohnnyCamp's suggestion was a good one.

Drywall comes in 4' x 8' sheets, though, so you might want to get the home improvement store where you buy them to cut them down to a more workable size.

And don't attach them in a way that makes them hard or impossible to detach.

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