

buy quiet

What is the Buy Quiet Program?

The Buy Quiet Program is a voluntary, coordinated approach to product noise control in which local governments, state agencies, and the federal government use their individual and combined purchasing power to encourage industry to manufacture and market quieter products.

How does it work?

Quite simply. If a government or an agency wants to buy a quieter product or contractual service, it asks for it. And, if a supplier wants that government or agency's business, it responds accordingly.

The program obtains quieter products without regulation, mandatory uniform product standards, or massive paperwork. It's, in short, a refreshing alternative approach to product noise reduction.

Quieter models of most of the products used by governments or their contractors are commercially available at little or no added cost to the consumer.

Who is involved in the program?

- National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc. (NIGP)
- National League of Cities (NLC)
- Over 300 Local and State governments, agencies, and purchasing cooperatives
- General Services Administration, Federal Supply Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Why should my local government or state agency Buy Quiet?

Governments are discovering that buying quiet:

- **Costs little or nothing extra.**
Quieter products are available at competitive prices. El Segundo, California, for example, found that when soliciting bids for chipper, the most inexpensive chipper was also the quietest!

- **Requires little additional effort.**
Specific information on quieter products and experiences as well as buy quiet guides are available through the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing.

- **Usually saves energy and money.**
Quieter products tend to be better engineered. Consequently, they usually are more energy efficient, require less repairs, and last longer.

- **Shows the public your local government's concern for quieting the environment.**
This adds a new dimension to your annual reports by addressing community concerns for a quieter environment, thus gaining the support of communities and citizens in protecting their "right to quiet."

How is the program organized?

The program is in four parts:

A Quieter Products Program—includes government/industry conferences at which industry representatives and government user and purchasing officials jointly develop quiet product purchase descriptions which cities and other governments can use. (Lawnmower and chain saw descriptions are now available.)

Local Buy Quiet Programs—agreements of purchasing cooperatives and individual governments to buy quiet as an ongoing activity form the core of the program; they are targeted for special assistance. At "Workshops on Purchasing Quieter Products and Services" government officials learn how to "Buy Quiet."

Data Bank for Quiet Purchasing—information to help purchasing agent and others in buying quiet products is provided by the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing.

Quiet Product Demonstrations—quiet products that are loaned to local governments serve to demonstrate what can be achieved with the buy quiet concept.

What noisy products are you talking about?

Examples of noisy products for which information on how to buy quiet can be made available include:

lawnmowers	chain saws
trucks	garbage trucks
automobiles	buses
motorcycles	bulldozers
compressors and generators	pneumatic drills
pumps	chippers
engines	air conditioners
	fans and blowers

Can you give some examples of where local Buy Quiet programs are being initiated?

Buy Quiet programs currently include several States and major cities (such as New York City, Chicago, Pittsburgh, New Orleans, Austin) and purchasing cooperatives (Davenport, IA and St. Paul). In Minnesota, numerous cities and counties throughout the State are organizing and cooperating closely with the Minnesota League of Cities to buy quiet. Scottsbluff, Nebraska; Shelby County, Tennessee; and the State of West Virginia are also establishing programs.

The influence of smaller American cities in their purchasing power of quieter products is already being felt. For instance, the city of El Segundo, California incorporated into its administrative procedures a requirement that any goods (in this case, garbage trucks) purchased by the city should comply with acceptable

noise levels if the noise emissions from the product impacted on the health and welfare of their citizens. The bottom line is that El Segundo now has several vehicles and compaction units meeting this city's specifications resulting in a quieter community.

What information is available to your government through the Buy Quiet Data Bank?

The Data Bank currently includes product specifications on two products (lawnmowers and chain saws), detailed information on five more (motorcycles, wheel and crawler tractors, vacuum cleaners, trash compactors, pavement breakers and rock drills), and some information on many others. Materials describing quiet products and experiences of communities are being gathered and disseminated on a continual basis from manufacturers, government agencies and trade organizations. Some of the Data Bank's own publications, which include a *Guide to Purchasing Quieter Products and Services*, and several product information supplements, are available.

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