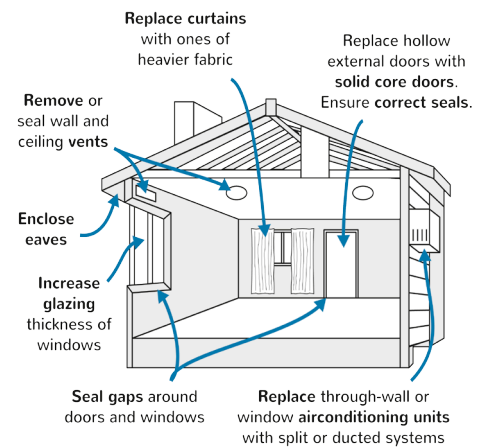


# Reducing freight rail noise in your home



Western Australia's freight rail network operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is one of the State's most important contributors to economic growth and an integral link with industry, regional communities, the east coast of Australia and vital export markets.

Noise from freight rail operations is an unavoidable aspect of ensuring goods can be moved efficiently and sustainably into, around and out of the State.

As the State's rail network will play an increasingly important role in moving freight across Western Australia in the future, the freight rail industry and government recognise that a collaborative effort is required to better manage impacts associated with freight rail transport. There also are things home-owners can do to help reduce noise in their homes.

## How noise enters a home

Generally, noise enters the home in much the same way as air does – through cracks and openings in the home's exterior. Noise also travels through a home's design features, such as the roof and ceiling, flooring in raised homes, windows and frames. The density of these features will affect how much noise moves through the house.

## Practical ways to reduce freight rail noise at home

There are several ways you can reduce the amount of freight rail noise experienced inside your home. Most of these are similar to what you would do to prevent wind gusting through your house, and include:

1. Seal gaps around doors and windows.
2. Ensure correct seals for external doors.
3. Use solid core doors, not hollow doors, in your home.

4. Consider curtains made of a heavy fabric.
5. Seal wall and ceiling vents.
6. Use split or ducted air-conditioning systems instead of through wall or window units.
7. Increase glazing thickness of windows.
8. Increase roof insulation thickness and density.
9. Increase the height or density of fences or walls between the house and the freight railway.
10. Enclose eaves.

These options vary in cost and implementation, from inexpensive and do-it-yourself to more costly solutions that may require you to seek professional help for installation.

The level of annoyance with the noise that you experience will determine how much you choose to spend on noise reduction.

The freight rail industry is also working hard to address freight rail noise. For more information please see Information Sheet Managing Freight Rail Noise.

