

QUIET PLEASE:

Addressing a neighbour about their barking dog

Hearing a neighbour's dog bark for hours can be frustrating, but approaching the situation with empathy and tact makes all the difference. Many dog owners don't realize their dog barks when they're away. Here's how to have that conversation politely:

- **START WITH EMPATHY**

Before you knock on their door, remember: most dog owners love their pets and aren't intentionally letting them disturb you. Many dogs bark only when their owners are away, so the owner may genuinely not know there's a problem.

Approach the conversation as a friendly heads-up, not a confrontation. Your goal is to solve a shared problem, not to win an argument.

- **CHOOSE THE RIGHT TIME**

Don't confront your neighbour in the hallway when you're frustrated or when the dog is actively barking.

Choose a calm moment — perhaps a weekend afternoon when you see them walking their dog.

A relaxed setting leads to a more productive conversation. Avoid late evenings or early mornings when emotions may already be running high.

- **WHAT TO SAY**

Keep it simple and non-accusatory. Try: *"Hi, I wanted to mention that I've been hearing some barking during the day and I think it might be when you're out. I figured you'd want to know."*

This frames you as helpful, not hostile. Avoid phrases like "your dog won't stop barking" or "you need to do something about your dog."

- **OFFER SOLUTIONS**

Coming with helpful suggestions makes the conversation feel collaborative.

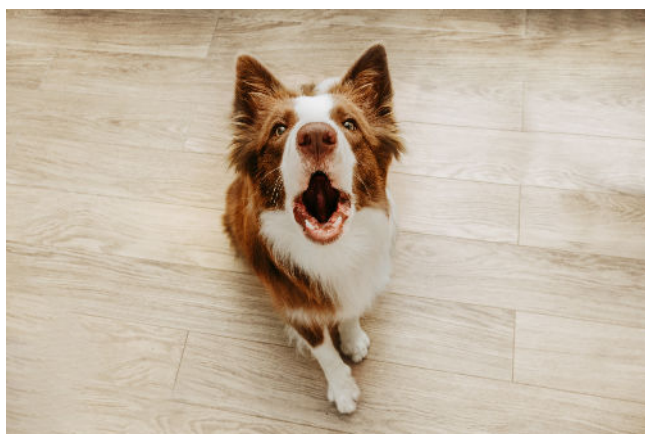
You might say: "I've heard Bark Busters provides in-home training that helps with barking — it might be worth looking into." Offering a resource shows you care about solving the problem, not just venting.



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We know a barking dog can be irritating, particularly when it's disrupting your sleep or home workday. Try to avoid getting angry and lashing out publicly - this will always make the situation worse.



IF TALKING DOESN'T HELP

If you've spoken to your neighbour and the barking continues, consider these next steps:

- Follow up once - they may need time to arrange training & a solution. Don't expect the problem to vanish tomorrow.
- Keep a record of the barking. Contact building management with your documented record
- Request that management share the building's pet resources & suggest the Bark Busters Apartment & Condo Program to your property manager
- As a last resort, check local noise bylaws for formal complaint options

WHAT NOT TO DO:

- Never leave angry notes under the door, this will only escalate conflict.
- Don't bang on walls or ceilings - it can frighten the dog or encourage more barking.
- Avoid confronting your neighbour in front of other building or neighbourhood residents.
- Never threaten to call animal control unless there is genuine neglect.
- Don't attempt to interact with or discipline someone else's dog.
- Avoid passive-aggressive comments in shared spaces or group chats.

FOR BUILDING MANAGEMENT

If you are a property manager receiving barking complaints, consider partnering with Bark Busters In-Home Dog Training.

We offer free educational resources for residences, group programs, and in-home training that addresses barking at the source.

Proactive pet programs reduce complaints and improve tenant satisfaction.

Contact us at info@barkbusters.ca to learn more.