

1 Why are leaf blowers an issue?

The engines on gas-powered leaf blowers create air pollution that can cause significant impact to the lungs. A combination of chemicals that contribute to ground-level ozone, as well as fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) can be inhaled by people using the equipment, as well as people nearby. Even short-term exposure to particle pollution and ozone-forming chemicals generated by the machines has been proven to cause or contribute to health concerns like:



Asthma



Heart Attacks



Cardiovascular Disease



COPD



Early Death

2 Who is at greatest risk?

Older Adults

Workers Who
Use Them

Children

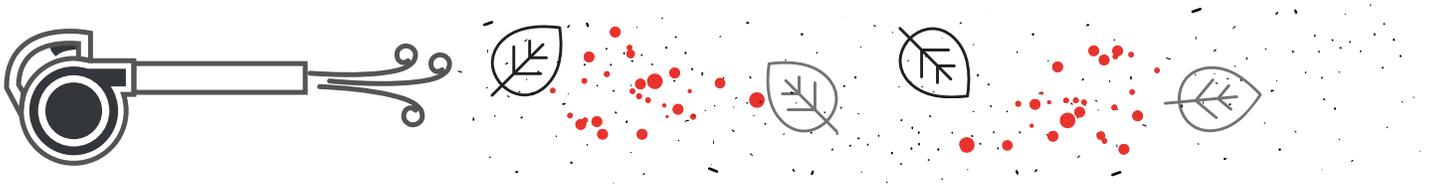
People with
Chronic Illness



An authoritative, independent laboratory study showed that using a two-stroke gas-powered leaf blower for 30 minutes produces pollutants equal to those generated by driving a Ford F-150 truck 3,900 miles, or as far as from Texas to Alaska. - *Quiet Communities*

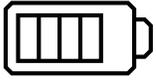
3 What are the effects of using leaf blowers?

Not only does the leaf blower itself create pollution, the force of wind it creates can spread materials on the ground like mold, leaf litter, dirt, yard chemicals, and animal waste up into the air where particles can trigger additional health issues like asthma attacks, worsening allergies or COPD symptoms.



Additionally, the noise pollution created by leaf blowers can be around 90dB, which can carry over long distances and impact entire communities. The decibel levels are enough to cause permanent hearing loss after prolonged exposure.

4 What can you do about it?



If you own a gas-powered leaf blower, consider switching to a plug in or battery-powered electric model. They are cleaner and quieter.



Before you choose a landscaping company ask which type they use, and let them know that you are looking for a company that uses plug in or battery-powered blowers.



Rake your yard and use the leaf litter to add nutrients to your own soil by composting them. The leaves also provide welcome habitats for important pollinators.



There are ordinances limiting or banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in over 400 communities nationally. Ask your municipal leadership to pass an ordinance restricting the use of these highly polluting tools.

5 How can you start?

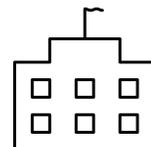
Many municipal governments have departments of the environment or sustainability. They also work closely with their local parks and school districts. To set both a good example and tone of expectation, municipalities can implement change in its:



Parks



Public Spaces



Municipal Buildings

When we protect our community's health, it benefits us all!