



Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ban – Information and Enforcement

Seasonal Ban Information

Between May 15 and September 30, the Village of Wilmette prohibits the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

Why Has the Village Banned This Equipment?

Gas powered leaf blowers produce dangerous levels of noise and air pollution which are harmful to users of the equipment and residents:

- Noise: Gas-powered leaf blowers can create noises that reach up to 100 dB (Decibels), this level of noise is equivalent to a jet engine during take-off, a jackhammer, and a helicopter hovering at 100 feet!
- Air: Gas-powered leaf blowers typically use small two stroke engines which emit more air pollutants than a car; emissions from 30 minutes of gas-powered leaf blower use are about the same as driving a Ford F-150 pickup truck 3,900 miles¹

Enforcement

Based upon increasing concerns from the community regarding the adverse impacts of gas-powered leaf blowers, the Village of Wilmette has made it a priority to enforce the ban this summer. As such, there will be a dedicated staff member to address ordinance violations as they are observed or reported.

The Village's intent is not to be punitive but to improve compliance with the existing law and enhance the quality of life in our community. The Village is not intending to seek fines from landscapers unless there are gross and repeated violations of the ordinance. **The landscaping company will be cited for violations of the Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ban, not the user of the leaf blower themselves.**

How You Can Help

Residents can aid in curtailing the nuisance caused by gas-powered leaf blowers – please speak to your landscaping contractor and advise them not to use their gas-powered leaf blowers during the summer months. If able, allow landscapers to use your battery/electric equipment as needed and offer plug-ins for electric equipment for equipment recharging.

This is an issue that affects many Wilmette residents, we hope that with widespread compliance, we can improve the quality of life for all Wilmette residents, businesses, and visitors!

¹ Gas Powered Leaf Blower Noise and Emissions Factsheet, Quiet Clean PDX, 11/12/2019