

Sample Ordinances & Rules Governing Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

Rye, NY (2008)	Larchmont, NY (2020 and 2015)	Hastings-on-Hudson, NY (2008)	Newton, MA (2017)	Mill Valley, CA (1993)	Greenwich, CT (amended 2020)	Maplewood, NJ (2017)	Washington, D.C. (2019)	Southampton Village, NY (2019)
<p><b>General Rules:</b>  <b>No leaf blowers (regardless of fuel type) allowed between May 1 &amp; Sept. 30</b> [§133-7]</p> <p><b>Between Oct. 1 and April 30: no “leaf blower” allowed to be operated on same lot with any other type of machine-powered lawn equipment; cannot operate two or more “leaf blowers” simultaneously</b> (except in R-1 districts); there are also limits on hours of use</p> <p>The use of power or “leaf blowers” to move leaves or yard debris to city streets, public property, storm drains or abutting lots is prohibited at all times.</p> <p>“Leaf blower” is defined to include “any device powered by a electricity, gasoline, diesel or similar fuel engine which is used, designed or operated to produce a current of air for the purpose of pushing, propelling or blowing leaves,</p>	<p><b>New Rule (effective 1/1/2022): Gas-blowers completely banned;</b> electric blowers limited to April (for spring clean-up) &amp; Oct. 15 to Dec. 15 (for fall clean-up); temp. allowances for extreme weather events as det. by Mayor</p> <p><b>Existing Rules:</b>  <b>No “leaf blowers” powered by “internal combustion engines are allowed Between June 1 and Sept. 30.</b> [§195-5(B)]</p> <p>Between Oct. 1 and May 31, can only use “leaf blowers”: Mon-Fri (8am to 5:30pm), Saturdays (9am to 6pm), and Sundays and holidays (10am to 5pm).</p> <p>“Leaf blower” is defined to include any “device” which is powered by an “internal combustion engine” and which is “used or designed to move leaves, grass, clippings, dust, dirt or other</p>	<p><b>General Rules:</b>  <b>No leaf blowers allowed between May 16 and Oct. 14</b></p> <p>Between Oct. 15 and May15, leaf blowers are allowed, but only from 9am to 5pm, AND only if they conform to the “decibel level restrictions” and “steady state and impact vibrations restrictions” set forth in other village noise ordinances [§217-6J]</p>	<p><b>General Rules:</b>  <b>No gas-powered leaf blowers allowed between Memorial Day and Labor Day,</b> (Note: this ban specifically applies to City employees and contractors).</p> <p>Electric or battery-powered leaf blowers can be used during that [summer] period, so long as they don’t exceed 65 decibels and only one per lot. [§20-13(h)]</p> <p>At other times during the year, leaf blowers can’t be used before 7am (weekdays) 8am (Saturdays) and 9:30am (holidays and Sundays) and cannot be used after 5pm on all days.</p>	<p><b>General Rules:</b>  <b>All leaf blowers (regardless of fuel type) prohibited at all times.</b> [§7.16.090I.]</p> <p>In addition, there are strict decibel limits for “Power garden equipment” [see, e.g., [§7.16.090F.]</p>	<p><b>New COVID Rule:</b>  <b>No more than one gas leaf blower at a time, regardless of lot size</b></p> <p><b>Existing Rules:</b>  Only one gas blower at a time if site is ¼ acre or less;</p> <p>From Memorial Day through Labor Day, only one gas blower at a time on any property</p> <p>No gas blowers allowed between 6:00PM &amp; 8:00AM Mon-Fri and bet. 3:00PM &amp; 9:00AM Sat-Sun &amp; holidays.</p>	<p><b>General Rules:</b>  <b>No gas-powered leaf blowers allowed from May 15th through Sept. 30th</b></p> <p>NOTE: as written, the seasonal ban only applies to blowers used by commercial entities. According to the mayor, however, due to a legal challenge to that provision, the town plans to amend that language so that the rule will apply to everyone—so it won’t matter who is using the machine.</p>	<p><b>New Rule (effective 1/1/2022): Gas-blowers completely banned</b></p>	<p><b>General Rules</b>  <b>Gas-powered leaf blowers not allowed from May 20 through Sept. 20.</b></p> <p>From Sept. 21 until May 19, gas blowers are allowed, but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- not on Sundays and not on federal and state holidays</li> <li>- no earlier than 8:00AM or later than 6:00PM on weekdays or 9AM to 5PM on Saturdays</li> <li>- walk-behind leaf blowers may not be used unless the property is greater than 1/2 acre</li> <li>- no more than a total of two handheld or backpack leaf blowers may be used at a time, unless the property that is being cleaned is greater than 1/2 acre.</li> </ul>

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<p>dirt, gardening and grass clippings and cuttings, refuse or debris.”</p> <p>Note: there is also a separate noise ordinance that restricts noise from lawn mowers and leaf blowers and outdoor vacuum cleaners to 85 db and limits hours of use [Sec. 133-3(A)(3)]</p>	<p>matter by blowing them with air emitted by such device” leaf blowers</p> <p>Note: the town also has restrictions on gardening equipment that is powered by an “internal combustion engine” [§195-5(A)]</p>							
<p><b>Exceptions:</b> Head of Public Works may permit use from May 1 to Sept 30 after significant storm events or during other emergency situations—but not to exceed 7 days</p> <p>Restrictions do not apply to municipality, schools, golf courses, etc.—except that “leaf blower use shall be minimized to the maximum extent practicable in proximity to residences.”</p>	<p><b>Exceptions (after 1/1/22):</b> Temp. allowances for extreme weather events as det. by Mayor</p>	<p><b>Exceptions:</b> Village Manager can permit use between May 16 and Oct 15, subject to same time limits and provisos if: (i) an emergency situation exists; or (ii) a resident has a medical condition that requires a leaf blower to clean up (must present letter from MD)—but even then, only one leaf blower per site and cannot be operated concurrently w/any other electric or fuel-powered yard equipment</p>	<p><b>Exceptions:</b> For contiguous lots under single ownership that total at least 30 acres and are used for institutional or recreational purposes.</p> <p>Mayor or designee has ability to suspend rules for emergency storm clean-up or other special circumstance and in case of undue personal hardship (must show attempts to mitigate, etc.)</p>	<p><b>Exceptions:</b> N/A</p>	<p><b>Exceptions:</b> For storm condition clean-up operations</p>	<p><b>Exceptions:</b> None</p>	<p><b>Exceptions:</b> None</p>	<p><b>Exceptions:</b> Gas-powered leaf blowers may be used when responding to an emergency or clean-up after a major storm when the Mayor has declared a state of emergency</p>
<p><b>Fines:</b> ?</p>	<p><b>Fines/Penalty:</b> Both owner and operator shall be deemed violators; fine not exceeding \$250 or imprisonment not exceeding 15 days or both.</p>	<p><b>Fines:</b> \$50 first offense/\$200 for each additional offense in same calendar year</p>	<p><b>Fines:</b> [§20-13(m), 17-23(c), 17-23(d)] Difficult to find, but it looks like: Warning for 1<sup>st</sup> violation. \$100 for second violation in calendar year; \$200 for third in calendar year; \$300 for 4th in calendar year;</p>	<p><b>Fines:</b> \$500</p>	<p><b>Fines:</b> ?</p>	<p><b>Fines:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> offense: \$500 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: \$1000 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: \$1500</p>	<p><b>Fines:</b> A civil fine not to exceed \$500, penalties, and fees may be imposed</p>	<p><b>Fines/Penalty:</b> Enforceable against operator AND owner:  \$1,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 15 days</p>