

Leaf Blower Ban ...

It seems as though anti-leaf blower activists may not realize that they have won their argument. Because of their persistence, the industry has spent millions of dollars to improve the leaf blower, making it quieter and more environmentally friendly, yet they still argue to ban leaf blowers. What they say about blowers is often outdated and no longer true.

All new blowers are significantly quieter than the ones they replaced, most achieving a 50% reduction in sound. Several are 75% quieter. An even more significant improvement is the elimination or attenuation of the impeller whine so prevalent in older designs. In addition to improving the product, the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute offers free [educational materials](#) that can teach operators the proper way to use a leaf blower.

What can be done in cities that are adverse to leaf blowers is eliminate the old designs and replace them with “Quiet”, low emission blowers labeled at 65 dB(A). Because leaf blowers only run about 10 minutes per week per household, they last a very long time. If it is more than seven years old, an ordinance can require that they be replaced.

If the city council chooses to ban leaf blowers, the fact is, nothing will change because a ban cannot be enforced and people will continue to use them. You can find graphic proof of this at the [Santa Monica web site](#). Unfortunately, like the Eighteenth Amendment, an unenforceable ban will only make criminals out of ordinary citizens and that shouldn't happen in America.

When leaf blowers are at issue in a city, an industry spokesperson may have already provided representatives with pertinent facts about leaf blowers. But the motivating force behind a movement to ban blowers is not technical facts, rather it is political pressure. If there is talk about banning blowers in your community, you should try to understand the issues and form an opinion. Go to (<http://leafblownoise.com/Leaf%20Blower%20Facts.pdf>) to learn more about modern leaf blowers and then attend public meetings on the issue and voice your opinion. Make sure your City Council or Selectmen are aware of how you feel, either by writing a letter or making a statement at a public meeting. They will listen to voters like you.

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