



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE **LEAF BLOWER REGULATIONS**

Notice: A version of these regulations was adopted on 9/12/16, they were amended and reissued on 2/13/26.

- (1) All provisions of Cambridge Municipal Code (the "Code"), Noise Control, Chapter 8.16 are incorporated herein and made a part hereof.
- (2) Unless explicitly exempted herein, all persons and municipal contractors or commercial leaf blower operators and their employees must comply with all provisions of the Code, including but not limited to 8.16.081 ("Ordinance"), and the Regulations (the "Regulations") herein.
- (3) Commercial leaf blower operators and municipal contractors, as respectively defined by the Ordinance, must be permitted by the License Commission prior to operating, or allowing any of its employees to operate, leaf blowers in Cambridge.
 - (a) The permit must be applied for annually.
 - (b) The permit is subject to conditions, revocation, suspension and/or fines.
- (4) Any company or person, including the property owner where the service is taking place, who violates, or allows any other to violate, the provisions of the Code or these Regulations, may be subject to fines of \$300.00 per violation.
- (5) The user of a leaf blower must make all reasonable efforts to use it at the speed/throttle which emits the least sound and is least disturbing but can still accomplish the work to be performed.
- (6) When employees of the same commercial leaf blower operator are servicing adjacent parcels, the employees must not operate them simultaneously unless they are at least 100 feet apart from each other.
- (7) Commercial leaf blower operators must provide copies of the Code and Regulations to their employees and train them on the provisions of the Code and Regulations, prior to working in the City.
- (8) Leaf blowers cannot be pointed at persons or animals. There must be a distance of at least fifty (50) feet between the user and any person or animal.
- (9) It is prohibited to blow towards open windows or doors. When possible, leaf blowers are not to be used within 10 feet of windows or doors.
- (10) The leaf blower operator should use the longest possible nozzle for the equipment at maximum extension and orient the nozzle to reduce the sound.
- (11) The leaf blower equipment must be checked regularly to ensure proper operation and compliant sound emissions.
- (12) When feasible, prior to using a leaf blower, the operator must spray dusty areas with water.

- (13) Leaf blowers may never be used for construction dust, plaster dust or dry garden topsoil.
- (14) Leaf blowers may never be used to move large mounds of debris. Rakes and brooms should be used whenever possible and always when loosening heavier debris.
- (15) Employees must use ear protection while operating a leaf blower. The ear protection must be provided by the employer at no cost to the employee.
- (16) Leaf blower operators should use respiratory protection while operating the leaf blower. Any employee who requests respiratory protection from their employer, must be provided at no cost to the employee.
- (17) Leaf blower operators should use eye protection gear while operating the blower. Any employee who requests such gear from their employer, must be provided at no cost to the employee.
- (18) Commercial leaf blower operators and municipal contractors must provide each employee with a copy of the Regulations and train them on their provisions and those of the Ordinance.