



CAMBRIDGE LICENSE COMMISSION

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EXECUTIVE OFFICER

REVISED SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS OF LEAF BLOWER ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS

Revision Issued: February 13, 2026

- (1) The use of leaf blowers is generally prohibited in the City of Cambridge per Cambridge Municipal Code 8.16.081 (the "Ordinance"), amended on December 4, 2023.
- (2) Only portable, handheld or backpack style leaf blowers that are powered electrically can be used. The sound emission of the equipment cannot be more than 65 dBA sound pressure level as rated by the manufacturer using the ANSI standard. **All gas powered leaf blowers have been banned, except for municipal contractors when used for the purposes of: residential street cleaning, if the City continues not to tow vehicles for street cleaning purposes; on parcels equal to one acre or larger; and in the event of emergency conditions.**
- (3) Residents, commercial leaf blower operators and municipal contractors must follow the Ordinance as it relates to leaf blowers and the Leaf Blower Regulations ("Regulations") issued by the Departments of License Commission and Public Works. Commercial leaf blower operators and municipal contractors must obtain an annual permit from the License Commission prior to operating leaf blowers in the City.
- (4) Leaf blowers can only be used between March 15 – June 15 and September 15 – December 15 ("allowable seasons") with the following exceptions:
 - (a) Cannot operate on Sundays; and
 - (b) Cannot operate on holidays, except Indigenous Peoples' Day and Veterans' Day.
- (5) During the allowable seasons, leaf blowers can only be operated:
 - (a) Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.;
 - (b) Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.;
 - (c) Indigenous Peoples' Day 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.; and
 - (d) Veterans' Day 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- (6) The simultaneous use of multiple leaf blowers is prohibited on parcels smaller than 10,000 sq. ft. On parcels larger than 10,000 sq. ft., simultaneous use is allowed only if the leaf blowers are operated at least 100 feet apart from each other.
- (7) Any person operating a leaf blower in the City of Cambridge must be aware of and comply with the Ordinance and the additional provisions as to proper use as dictated in the Regulations.
- (8) Violations of the Ordinance or Regulations can subject any person, including residents or property owners, company and/or contractor to incur fines of up to \$300 per violation, in addition to any administrative fine issued by the License Commission.