

City of Cambridge  
License Commission  
831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139  
617-349-6140(telephone); 617-349-6148(fax); 617-349-6112 (TTY)

**Commercial Operator Application for  
Leaf Blower Operations Plan *pursuant to*  
Section 8.16.081 of the Cambridge Municipal Code**

***Instructions for Commercial Operators: Complete this application and return to above address for review and approval.***

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Employees: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Section A**

- I certify that I have reviewed and agree to comply with the provisions of 8.16.081 of the Cambridge Municipal Code regarding the use of leaf blowers and agree to its requirements.
- I certify that all Leaf blowers used by me/my company meet current EPA emissions standards and the sound emitted from any leaf blower shall be rated by the manufacturer to be no greater than 65 decibels.
- I certify that only one leaf blower will be used by me/my company in parcels of 10,000 square feet or smaller. Larger parcels may use only one leaf blower within each 10,000 square foot area.
- I certify that I/my company will use leaf blowers only within permitted dates:  
March 15-June 15  
September 15-December 31
- I certify that I/my company will use leaf blowers only in permitted times:  
Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Columbus Day: 12 noon-5:00 p.m.  
Veterans Day: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Owner Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Section B**

Companies must agree to follow the best management practices below, and to train all employees who use leaf blowers on the following best management practices. If there are proposed revisions to the best management practices, please attach to plan.

### General Courtesy

- Be aware of neighbors, pedestrians and others nearby. Some may have respiratory illness or allergies that could be triggered by flying dust and debris.
- Be aware of surroundings. Do not use in close proximity to children playing, people reading, school groups gathering, or others nearby.
- When using equipment do not point blower at people or pets.
- Do not blow toward open windows or doors, and if possible, do not use within 10 feet of windows or doors.
- Do not blow debris onto adjacent property, the street, catch basins, gutters, vehicles, people or pets.
- Abide by time-of-day, day-of-week and seasonal of use restrictions.
- Adjust hours/times of use to accommodate residents, institutions, abutters (within time restrictions).

### Sound Reduction

- Use portable leaf blowers rated 65 decibels or lower, as specified by manufacturer.
- Use at lowest possible speed/throttle to accomplish task
- Use longest possible nozzle for equipment.
- Orient nozzle to reduce sound.
- Check equipment regularly for proper operation (i.e. muffler, filters, motor).

### Reduction of Dust/Particulate Matter

- Spray dusty areas with water before using blower.
- Use the full nozzle extension so that the air stream can work close to the ground.
- Do not use for construction dust, plaster dust or dry garden topsoil.
- Do not use blower to move large mounds of debris from one location to another.
- Use rakes or brooms to loosen heavier debris.

### Environmental Use

- Use equipment that meets current (2006) EPA emissions standards for leaf blowers.
- Leaf blowers should be run at half throttle most of the time. Low throttle speeds not only significantly reduce noise but also provide operator with maximum control.
- Use equipment at lowest power level to accomplish job.
- Learn to control air velocity to lift leaves without lifting dust.
- Use rakes or brooms to loosen heavier debris.

### Worker Safety

- Leaf blower operators will be provided with ear protection and will be offered eye protection and face masks.

### Operator Training

- Provide training in proper use to all employees.
- Observe time of use restrictions (months/days/hours).
- Limit use of leaf blowers to no more than one within a lot of 10,000 square feet or smaller.
- Use rakes and brooms to supplement cleanup and to loosen debris from corners and edges.
- Develop/provide brochure on proper use - post on website, provide in workplace, make print versions available to public (e.g. English, Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole).

**I certify that I have reviewed and hereby agree that I/my company will follow the best management practices above, and that I/my company will train all of my company's employees who use leaf blowers on the listed best management practices.**

Owner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please describe below or attach the following information:**

Inventory of all leaf blowers used. Include manufacturer's name and model number:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Training Plan:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List of properties maintained in Cambridge as of date of plan submission:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Attach additional information as may be necessary for unique circumstances.*



FOR CITY OF CAMBRIDGE USE ONLY

APPROVED       APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS (SEE ATTACHED)       DENIED

FEE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

