



Leaf Blower Noise in Princeton FAQs



For Landscapers

Q. What does Princeton's noise ordinance say about leaf blower noise?

A. According to the Princeton noise ordinance, the noise from a leaf blower must be "adequately muffled." The leaf blower must be "equipped with a muffler device sufficient to deaden" the noise that the engine combustion makes. The Princeton Police Department and the Princeton Health Department are authorized to enforce the muffler requirement.

Q. During what hours can my workers use a leaf blower in Princeton?

A. On Monday through Saturday, leaf blowers can be used in Princeton only between 8:00AM and 10:00PM. On Sunday, they can be used in Princeton only between 10:00AM and 10:00PM.

Q. How can I tell if my leaf blowers are quiet enough to meet the Princeton and New Jersey regulations?

A. To give you an idea of what these regulations mean in practice: If passersby avoid your workers when they are using leaf blowers, or if the leaf blower noise is much louder than the noise of nearby traffic, then your leaf blowers are probably too loud. If your workers wear ear protection but still develop hearing problems, then your leaf blowers are almost certainly too loud. The Princeton Health Department will be proactive in ensuring adequate personal protective equipment is utilized by workers.

Q. My leaf blowers don't have mufflers. Do I have to replace my leaf blowers in order to work in Princeton?

A. Leaf blowers used in Princeton must be equipped with mufflers. If the leaf blowers you currently own do not have mufflers, after-market mufflers can be placed on the engines to control noise. Information about after-market mufflers might be obtained from the internet.

Q. If I decide to buy new leaf blowers, how will I know which ones are quiet enough?

A. Look for leaf blowers that advertise that they meet low-noise requirements of states such as California.

Q. How can I get my work done in a reasonable time, using fewer leaf blowers?

A. Take steps to reduce leaf blowing.

Q. What steps can I take to reduce leaf blowing?

A. Grass clippings:

Tell your workers not to use a leaf blower to clean small amounts of grass clippings off the street, sidewalks, or driveways. The grass clippings can be left on the street, sidewalk, or driveway, or they can quickly be brushed aside with a broom.

A few leaves:

Tell your workers not to use a leaf blower to move a few leaves across a lawn. A few leaves can be left on the lawn, or they can be quickly moved with a rake.

When brooms and rakes are better:

Have your workers use brooms and rakes whenever they would be more efficient than leaf blowers. Using leaf blowers on grass clippings or a few leaves is a waste of your workers' time and can be a nuisance to residents in the area.

Questions regarding Leaf Blower use in Princeton? Call Princeton Health Department at (609) 497-7608

Questions regarding Lawn & Leaf Management concerns? Call Princeton Public Works at (609) 688-2566



