

Health & Environmental Impacts of Gas Lawn & Maintenance Equipment

MORE POLLUTING THAN CARS



Source: California Air Resources Board Small Engine Fact Sheet

HARMFUL EXHAUST

- High levels of fine particulate matter and smog-forming chemicals cause dizziness, headaches, asthma attacks, heart & lung disease and cancer.

DANGEROUS DUST

- Blowers blast up industrial pollutants, demolition debris (lead, asbestos), feces, pollens, fertilizers, and dirt right where we breathe.

EXTREME NOISE

- Machine noise penetrates homes, schools, parks, disturbs wildlife, and constantly violates Portland's noise ordinance.
- One gas leaf blower can cause permanent hearing loss in 2 hours and can impact 90 homes.

NATURE DESTRUCTION

- Refueling spills contaminate soil and waterways
- Blowers especially erode, compact, and dry out soil, and harm plants, microorganisms, and pollinators.

MOST AT RISK

- Workers, children, elderly, people with chronic illness such as asthma, and people exercising.

Gas-Free Maintenance For Our Health & Environment



**It's Time to Change
How We Clean Up,
Portland**

CONCERNED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS INCLUDE:

Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center, World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control, American Lung Association,

Solutions for our Health and Environment

Choose Healthy Tools



Choose tools that don't create toxic fumes, dust or extreme noise

- **Using a broom or rake instead of a gas blower** eliminates massive pollution, dust and noise.
- **Battery/electric alternatives** to gas tools are readily available.
- If you must use a blower (gas or battery), make sure there are no bystanders within 50 feet and do not use on dusty surfaces.

*Don't want to buy a new tool?
Check out your local free tool library*

Rethink to Reduce



Embrace a less manicured look and let nature do its thing

- **Leave the leaves** under trees and shrubs to build healthy soil and habitat for pollinators and wildlife.
- **Cut the work:** Instead of mow-edge-blow, just mow. Leave grass clippings to improve lawn.
- **Replace** resource-intensive lawns with drought tolerant, pollinator friendly plants.

*Info sources: Xerces.org,
EMSWCD.org, and Metro.gov*

Create Healthy Jobs



Help create demand for green, healthy jobs

- **Ask** landscapers, arborists roofers, etc. to use brooms, rakes or vacuums instead of blowers to clean up.
- **Talk with** contractors about the harmful effects of all gas equipment. Ask what support they need to switch to safer, healthier tools and work.
- **Hire eco-**landscapers that are already out there.

Facts, resources, and materials available at ...