



TOWN OF BROOKLINE
Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Andrew M. Pappastergion
Commissioner

TOWN OF BROOKLINE
LEAF BLOWER REGULATIONS

Notice: Pursuant to Article 8.31.4 of the Town's General By-Laws, the following Regulations were adopted on February 11, 2020 by the Commissioner Public Works and approved by the Select Board. These are effective immediately and are subject to changes and amendments.

- (1) All provisions of Article 8.31 of the Town's General By-Laws, Leaf Blower Control, ("Article 8.31") are incorporated herein and made a part hereof.
- (2) Unless explicitly exempted, all persons and municipal contractors or commercial leaf blower operators and their employees shall comply with all provisions of Article 8.31 and the Regulations (the "Regulations") herein.
- (3) Only leaf blowers that are portable, handheld or back pack style powered by fuel or electricity are regulated by Article 8.31.
- (4) Commercial leaf blower operators, as defined in Article 8.31, must be permitted by the Department of Public Works and pay an annual fee prior to operating, or allowing any employee(s) to operate, leaf blowers in Brookline.
 - (a) The permit must be applied for annually.
 - (b) The applicant must pay an annual fee.
 - (b) The permit is subject to conditions, revocation, suspension and/or fines.
- (5) Any company or person, including the property owner, who violates, or allows any other to violate, the provisions of Article 8.31 or these Regulations, may be subject to fines of \$150.00 per violation.
- (6) All leaf blowers shall meet current EPA emissions standards and cannot emit noise greater than 67 decibels, as rated by the manufacturer.
- (7) The user of a leaf blower shall 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.
- (8) No more than two leaf blowers shall be used in parcels of 7,500 square feet or smaller, including sidewalks and roadways contiguous to such parcel.
- (9) When employees of the same commercial leaf blower operator are servicing adjacent parcels, the employees shall not operate them simultaneously unless they are at least one hundred (100) feet apart from each other.

(10) Leaf blowers shall only be used between March 15 – May 15 and October 1 – December 31, except for leaf blowers powered by electricity which are exempt from this seasonal usage limitation. The proper hours of operation during these periods are: Mondays through Fridays, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. This Regulation shall not apply to non-residential properties that contain at least 5 acres of open space, to municipal employees or contractors servicing public property, or after a weather emergency/storm per authority of the Commissioner of Public Works.

(11) Commercial leaf blower operators must train all employees on the provisions of Article 8.31 and these Regulations.

(12) Leaf blowers shall not be pointed at persons or animals. A distance of at least fifty (50) feet between the user and any person or animal must be maintained.

(13) It is prohibited to blow towards open windows or doors. When possible, leaf blowers are not to be used within 10 feet of open windows or doors.

(14) Private individuals and commercial leaf blower operators are prohibited from blowing debris onto adjacent property, catch basins, vehicles, people or animals. Leaves blown into the public way must be removed before leaving the site.

(15) Municipal employees or Municipal contractors may blow leaves, dust, dirt, grass clippings, cuttings and trimming from trees and shrubs on a municipal street or sidewalk for collection and pick-up, during municipal street and sidewalk sweeping and cleaning operations.

(16) The leaf blower operator should use the longest possible nozzle for the equipment at maximum extension and orient the nozzle to reduce the sound.

(17) The leaf blower equipment must be checked regularly to ensure proper operation and compliant sound emissions.

(18) When feasible, prior to using a leaf blower, the operator must spray dusty areas with water.

(19) Leaf blowers may never be used for non-plant materials, such as construction dust, plaster dust, mulch and dry soil.

(20) Leaf blowers shall not be used to move large mounds of debris. Rakes and brooms should be used whenever possible and always when loosening heavier debris.

(21) Commercial leaf blower operators and municipal contractors must provide each employee with a copy of the Regulations.

*The Commissioner of Public Works and the Select Board thank you for your compliance with Article 8.31 and these Regulations. **It is required by law that all employees are properly trained and provided personal protection gear.** If there are any complaints or violations, please report them immediately to the Town of Brookline through BrookOnLine, via email at tsegear@brooklinema.gov or by phone at (617) 879-4900.*