

## **<sup>1</sup>Toxic emissions from a 2-stroke gas blower include:**

### **Carbon Monoxide (CO)**

A 2-stroke gas blower emits 26 times as much CO as the average large car.

**Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)** Benzene, 1,3 butadiene, acetaldehyde, and formaldehyde. A 2-stroke gas leaf blower produces 498 times as much VOCs as a large car.

### **Particulate Matter (PM), specifically PM 2.5**

A 2-stroke blower emits 49 times as much PM as a large car.

A 2-stroke gas leaf blower emits more pollution in 30 minutes than a Ford F-150 Raptor pickup truck produces in 3,500 miles (Edmunds 2011).

### **Lung and Respiratory System Damage**

The toxic emissions of gas-powered leaf blowers is associated with higher rates of cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and asthma (American Lung Assoc.)

## **<sup>2</sup>Hearing Damage**

The noise of 2-stroke leaf blowers for the operator is in the 90-115 dB range. Anything over 85 dB is known to cause irreversible hearing loss after just 2 hrs.

<sup>6</sup>The noise of electric blowers is in the 59-65 dB range.

### **Other Health Effects**

Dizziness, headaches, allergies, higher rates of breast cancer, cardiovascular disease and dementia are all associated with inhaling the pollutants emitted by leaf blowers.

Environmental noise has been found to be associated with an increased incidence of arterial hypertension, myocardial infarction, heart failure, and stroke.

### **Quality of Life**

Because the noise gas-powered leaf blowers produce is high-decibel and low-frequency, it travels far and through windows and walls, making their use a nuisance to neighbors and passersby.

## **Gas spills**

The EPA estimates: "Americans spill 17 million gallons of gasoline each year filling lawn equipment. That's more than the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska."

## **<sup>4</sup>Electric blowers are easy to use**

- Turns on with a simple press of a button or flip of a switch.
- No messing with gas or oil.
- A corded blower is as light as a 2-stroke gas blower, and a battery-powered blower is only slightly heavier.
- No need for ear plugs.

## **<sup>7</sup>Electricity is turning green.**

As New York transitions to renewable electricity, using an electric blower will involve zero greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Consider mulching and/or leaving some leaves on lawn**

- leaves provide wintering sites for pollinators, fireflies, and other insects
- provides food sources for insects and birds
- decomposing leaves return nutrients to soil and act as weed control agent.

**<sup>5</sup>The power and cost of electric blowers are comparable to most 2-stroke gas-power blowers.**

Examples of offerings at Ace Hardware (as of 13-Jul-22):

Stihl BG 86 166 mph 444 CFM Gas Leaf Blower, \$259.99



Stihl BGA 86 154 mph 459 CFM Battery Leaf Blower, \$249.99



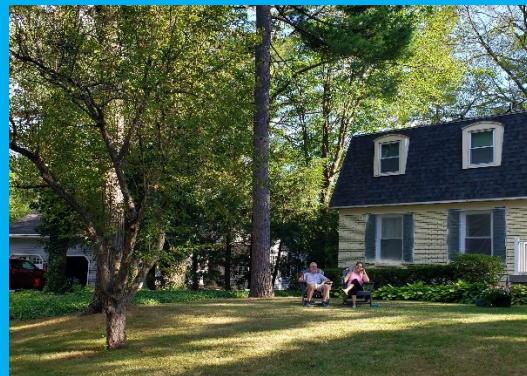
**Weights:**

- corded blowers: ~8 lbs
- 2-stroke blowers: ~10 lbs
- battery blowers: up to 14 lbs
- 4-stroke gas blowers: ~22 lbs

**Quiet Niskayuna** is dedicated to education about low-noise, zero-emissions landscape maintenance practices to protect the health of workers, the public and the environment.



Visit the **Quiet Niskayuna** Facebook page or [quietniskayuna.org](http://quietniskayuna.org). Sign up to be on our mailing list or contact us with questions or comments at [quietniskayuna@gmail.com](mailto:quietniskayuna@gmail.com)



For references and more information go to <https://www.cleanaircollective.net/post/why-are-gas-powered-leaf-blowers-so-bad>

**Reasons to Not Use a Gas Leaf Blower**

A 2-stroke gas leaf blower is light and powerful, but it also...

- exhausts toxic fumes into your face.<sup>1</sup>
- damages your hearing.<sup>2</sup>
- disturbs the peace<sup>3</sup>
- emits greenhouse gas.

An electric-powered leaf blower...

- is easier to use.<sup>4</sup>
- is as effective as most gas-powered blowers<sup>5</sup>
- is quieter and more peaceful.<sup>6</sup>
- will use green energy.<sup>7</sup>

A human-powered rake...

- is the least expensive.
- is the quietest.
- uses the greenest energy sources.

