



WHY ARE SO MANY TOWNS
REGULATING OR EVEN BANNING
GAS-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS?



The Top 10 Reasons....

1. **Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers (GLBs) are super-polluters:** A consumer-grade leaf blower emits more pollutants than a 6,200-pound 2011 Ford F-150 SVT Raptor, according to tests conducted by [Edmunds](#), a renowned car magazine.
2. **GLB exhaust contains huge amounts of fine [particulate matter \(PM2.5\)](#), which is **carcinogenic**.** When we breathe PM2.5, which is invisible, it can pass through our lung tissue and into our bloodstreams. PM2.5 is also implicated in Alzheimer's & other diseases.
3. **[GLB engines emit benzene, formaldehyde, and 1,3 butadiene](#)** (three of the four most carcinogenic compounds in the world) into the air, where we either inhale them as aerosols or where they settle and contaminate our yards, waterways, and groundwater.
4. GLB engines are [extremely inefficient](#) and therefore are much more expensive to operate than battery-powered leaf blowers. One-third of GLB fuel mixture is not burned, but emitted as an aerosol exhaust. According to [Consumer Reports](#), "electric is the clear winner".
5. **[GLBs are so loud that they can cause hearing damage](#)**, even to bystanders, who may not realize their hearing is being damaged until years later. The noise is especially dangerous for children because their ear canals are smaller, which creates more pressure.
6. **[GLBs produce low frequency noise](#)** which travel farther and penetrate walls and windows in a way that the noise from battery blowers cannot, even when they are the same number of decibels. GLB noise, from 50 feet away, is typically four times louder than the maximum level for outdoor noise (55dB) recommended by the WHO.
7. **[GLB noise causes or contributes to health issues](#)** such as cardiovascular diseases (hypertension, strokes, and heart attacks), metabolic disturbances, anxiety, depression and loss of concentration. Noise is especially dangerous for the elderly and children.
8. **[GLBs stir up clouds of dust and other particulates laying on the ground](#)**, including fertilizers, pesticides, heavy metals, and animal feces, which we then breathe. These toxic materials are especially dangerous for children, the elderly, and those with asthma or other pulmonary issues.
9. **GLBs are not needed for most of the year: [blowing grass clippings is a cosmetic practice; removing the clippings is actually removing helpful fertilizer for the lawn](#).** Landscapers don't pick up or dispose of the material, they move it to where it's not needed. GLBs **desiccate the soil and destroy animal & insect habitat, including those that are critical for birds & pollinators.**
10. **[GLBs produce volatile organic compounds \(VOCs\), which combine with sunlight to form ozone](#)**, which is harmful to the environment. It burns our lungs, though we can't feel it. The EPA warns sensitive groups to stay indoors on days when the ozone levels are high. [Fairfield County has an ozone problem](#). Last summer, we exceeded the healthy threshold set by the EPA on [19 days!](#)