



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

LEAF BLOWER NOTICE

Montgomery County's Noise Control Ordinance (Chapter 31-B) includes general and leaf blower noise provisions.

GENERAL NOISE ORDINANCE STANDARDS

Receiving Noise Area	Daytime	Nighttime
Residential	65 dBA	55 dBA
Non-Residential	67 dBA	62 dBA

- “*Daytime*” means from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekends and holidays.
- “*Nighttime*” means from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. weekdays and 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. weekends and holidays.
- “*Receiving Property*” means any real property where people live or work and where noise is heard, including an apartment, condominium unit, or cooperative building unit.

LEAFBLOWER STANDARD (Section 31B-9)

A person must not sell, buy, offer for sale, or use a leaf blower at any time that has an average sound level exceeding 70 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) measurement standards will be used to determine compliance. Leafblowers may be operated in excess of the above mentioned property line noise standards during daytime hours. However, the use of multiple ANSI compliant leaf blowers simultaneously during daytime hours can create noise of a sufficient level to qualify as a violation and/or noise disturbance.

The Department of Environmental Protection may inspect, and require a person to produce, any leaf blower that is sold, offered for sale, or used in the County, to determine whether the leaf blower complies with the law.

“Leaf blower” means any portable device designed or intended to blow, vacuum, or move leaves or any other type of unattached debris or material by generating a concentrated stream of air. Leaf blower includes devices or machines that accept vacuum attachments.

Activities using leaf blowers are also subject to the “**Noise Disturbance**” provisions of the Ordinance. As defined by the Ordinance, a “*Noise Disturbance*” means any noise that is: (1) unpleasant, annoying, offensive, loud or obnoxious; (2) unusual for the time of day or location where it is produced or heard; or (3) detrimental to health, comfort, or safety of any individual or to the reasonable enjoyment of property or the lawful conduct of business because of loudness, duration, or character of the noise.

Individuals should self-monitor noise levels during landscaping activities. Consider purchasing a sound level meter or downloading an application that allows a smart phone to be used to measure sound levels.

Types of Leafblowers:



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