



September 21, 2021

Chevy Chase Village Residents

RE: Leaf Blower Regulations—Ban on Gas-Powered Blowers Eff. January 1, 2022

Dear Resident:

We are less than four months from the Village-wide ban on gas-powered blowers, which goes into effect on January 1, 2022. This letter is a reminder that residents are responsible for ensuring that they and their contractors comply with the law now and beyond.

The Village’s Board of Managers approved a ban on gas-powered blowers in December 2019 citing the adverse environmental, human health (for community members, but principally for the equipment operator) and quality of life impacts resulting from the use of gas-powered leaf blowers. The ban goes into effect on January 1, 2022, at the same time as the District of Columbia’s ban on gas-powered blowers is scheduled to go into effect.

Enclosed with this letter is a two-sided flier in English and Spanish that residents are asked to provide to their landscape contractor to ensure that all contractors are aware of the ban. The Village is also mailing this flier to all landscape companies on record as doing business in the community. The flier references:

- a. the January 1, 2022, ban on gas-powered blowers, and
- b. outlines the current restrictions on the use of all leaf blowers that remains in effect now and beyond (summarized below).

All leaf blowers—whether gas-, electric- or battery-powered—operated within the Village are and will remain subject to Montgomery County’s Noise Ordinance. The county’s Noise Ordinance states that “a person must not...use a leaf blower at any time that has an average sound level exceeding 70 dBA at a distance of 50 feet.” No person may buy, offer for sale, or use a leaf blower at any time that has a decibel rating of more than 70 dBA.

- CONTINUED ON REVERSE -

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Additionally, the simultaneous use of multiple leaf blowers that are compliant with the 70 dBA limit can STILL create noise of a sufficient level to qualify as a violation and/or noise disturbance.

If a blower seems loud, it may be in violation. Residents are encouraged to report blowers that are suspected to be in violation to the Village Communications Center to allow staff to follow-up with the contractor and property owner. First time confirmed violators will receive a warning and guidance for operating legally. Repeat violators will be subject to a citation and fine.

Thank you for your cooperation and compliance with these regulations,

Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers and Staff

Enclosure



Leaf Blower & Landscape Equipment Regulations

- **Permitted hours**—Power landscape equipment, including leaf blowers, may **only be used** between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. weekdays, and between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays.
- **No one may use** a leaf blower that has an average sound level **exceeding 70 dBA** (check the rating sticker on your blower). If your blower is rated above 70dBA, it is **illegal**.
- **Multiple blowers may cause too much noise**—Use of more than 1 'legal' blower may also violate the noise limit.
- **First time violators will receive a warning**, subsequent violators will receive a \$500 citation (for each violation).
- **Effective January 1, 2022** the use of **gas-powered leaf blowers** will be **illegal**.
- The Montgomery County Noise Ordinance applies within Chevy Chase Village. For more information, see the Montgomery County Noise Ordinance and provisions pertaining to leaf blowers (Section 31B-9) at:



<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/resources/files/downloads/compliance/noise-control-ordinance.pdf>



El Uso de Sopladores de Hojas y Equipaje de Paisaje

- **Horario Permitido**—Las herramientas electricas de jardineria, incluso los sopladores de hojas , **solo pueden ser usados** de 8:00 a.m. a 6:00 p.m. entre semana, y las horas de 9:00 a.m. a 6:00 p.m. los fines de semana y días festivos.
- **No se permite usar** un soplador de hojas que tengo un nivel medio de sonido **superior a 70 dBA**.
- El uso simultáneo de varios sopladores de hoja pueden crear ruido que califica como una violacion
- **Infractores recibirán una adver recibirán una advertencia la primera vez**, violaciones adicionales seran multadas
- **Effectivo el 1 de enero de 2022**, el uso de sopladores de hojas de gas sera **ilegal**



- La Ordenanza de Ruido de Montgomery County aplica dentro de Chevy Chase Village. Para mas información, consulte la Ordenanza de Ruido de Montgomery County y las provisiones sobre los sopladores de hoja (Seccion 31B-

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep/resources/files/downloads/compliance/noise-control-ordinance.pdf>