



Leaf Blower

Developed by:	Approved by:	Date created:	Last revision:
Elite Safety Services	Ryan Adams Walter Lavallee	October 23, 2023	
Possible Hazards Present	Personal Protection Required	Additional Training	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slip/Trip/Fall - Flying debris - Noise - Dust/Inhalation hazards, allergens (pollen) - Back strain/sprain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety Eyewear - Hearing protection - Respiratory protection (N95) - Work gloves - Hi-vis vest if working near traffic, roadways, etc. - Steel-toe footwear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operator's user guide - Respirator fit testing/training 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct a hazard assessment prior to using leaf blower. 2. Clear the working area of debris, obstacles, and bystanders. Make a safety circle approximately 10 meters (30') around you. Wet down dusty areas before using a leaf blower. 3. Inspect leaf blowers and any wires, plugs, and extension cords (if electric) before each use. Report any damage/wear to your supervisor. Check the condition of the muffler and air intakes (clear any debris) and air filter. Check and tighten nuts/bolts/screws and ensure controls, parts, and safety devices are not damaged and are effectively working. 4. Don all personal protective equipment including eye protection for flying debris, rocks/stones, etc. Wear respiratory protective equipment in dusty/dirty areas or where dampness and decay may have created conditions for mold growth (mold spores are an inhalation hazard). Wear proper footwear to protect your feet from tool and site hazards. Wear hearing protection as required (noise exposure level 85 dbA or higher). 5. Start and run unit in an upright position. Point the tool toward an open area and not toward people, buildings or areas that can cause debris to ricochet. Hold with both hands. 6. Hold the nozzle close to the ground and then raise it to a height where it does not generate dust. 7. Keep your back straight while operating the leaf blower. 8. Remain aware of what you are moving. Always direct debris away from people, animals, glass/solid objects that could cause the debris to ricochet. 9. Stop the leaf blower if any person/animal enters the safety circle or wants to approach you. 10. Ensure your body positioning is stable, watch for uneven ground, ruts, and holes. Use caution while working on steps (where slippery conditions exist, wear non-slip 			



soles).

LEAF BLOWER TYPES

- If using backpack-style leaf blower, ensure you use shoulder harness/strap to avoid strain/sprain and muscle fatigue. Adjust the strap to the best fit for you.
- If using electric leaf blower, ensure it is plugged into GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets.
- If using gas leaf blower, ensure fuel containers have self-closing lids and screen arrestors. These cans have spring-mounted spout caps that automatically open when vapor pressure builds up inside, preventing rupture or explosion. A wire-mesh flame arrestor will prevent flashback from reaching the gas inside the can. Use the correct fuel/oil mix (refer to operator’s manual). Ensure the leaf blower has sufficient fuel before you start the engine. When refueling, turn off the engine and allow it to cool. Loosen the cap slowly to relieve pressure in the tank). Once the leaf blower has been refueled, move it at least 10 feet away from fueling area. Do not smoke while handling fuel or operating the tool.

DO NOT

- Operate a leaf blower until you have been trained and fully understand the instructions and safety precautions.
- Use a blower to spread or mist chemicals, fertilizer, or toxic substances.
- Use a leaf blower to clean up large amounts of gravel/gravel dust, construction dirt, plaster, cement/concrete, or dry topsoil.
- Overreach when using the leaf blower—use attachments to reach high areas.
- Use blower from a ladder, tree, roof, or any unstable surface.
- Operate leaf blower without the tubing.
- Leave blower running unattended.
- Allow grass and debris to build up on the tool—this can damage the equipment.

When conducting maintenance, always ensure the tool is shut off. Ensure the tool will not accidentally start-up.

Documentation/Legislation

Workplace Safety and Health Regulations, 2022

- Operator’s Manual
- CSA Z195.1-16 Guideline on Selection, Care, and Use of Protective Footwear
- CSA Z94.3:20 Eye and Face Protectors
- CSA Z94.2-02 Hearing Protection Devices—Performance, Selection, Care, and Use.
- Part 2.1.1 Safe Work Procedures.
- Part 6.1 Personal Protective Equipment.
- Part 12.3, Part 12.4 Hearing Protection

This Safe Work Procedure will be reviewed anytime the task, equipment or materials change and at a minimum every three years.