

PORTABLE LEAF BLOWERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do leaf blowers pose air quality or health concerns?

Yes. Gas-powered lawn equipment, including leaf blowers, do impact air quality when their engine exhaust and gas evaporation emissions are combined on a regional or statewide level. It is estimated that emissions from this type of equipment exceed emissions coming from light-duty passenger cars driven in California. The blown dust, or particulate matter, and exhaust gas from leaf blower use can also have acute health impacts on passersby and landscaper workers that use leaf blowers on a regular basis. People exposed can experience an increase in allergy or asthma symptoms and long-term and regular exposure can increase chances of other illnesses.

Are leaf blower engine emissions regulated?

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulates the engine emissions from small off-road engines used in leaf blowers and other lawn and garden equipment by setting regulatory emission standards. CARB is proposing a new regulation that will lower emission standards and eventually require all new lawn and garden equipment to be zero emission technology. LINK

Does the Sac Metro Air District regulate leaf blowers in Sacramento County?

No. The District has no regulations that specifically prohibit the use of portable leaf blowers. Currently, only the City of Sacramento regulates the use of portable leaf blowers (City Ordinance). Portable leaf blowers in the other cities and unincorporated areas of Sacramento County are not subject to the City of Sacramento's regulation. You can find a detailed explanation of the District's authority on portable leaf blowers here: LINK

Can leaf blowing be considered a public nuisance by the Air District?

Not likely. The District does have a general nuisance rule prohibiting the discharge of air contaminants that cause a *public* nuisance under the California Health & Safety Code. There are very specific conditions that must be met for a public nuisance to be established and leaf blowing has **not met** the criteria of a public nuisance. Leaf blowers are usually used

intermittently, for short periods of time and on relatively small areas. Typical use does not generally affect enough people to justify a public nuisance. Please note, the City of Sacramento does consider violations of their leaf blower ordinance to be a public nuisance and complaints can be made with the City by calling 311.

I live in the City of Sacramento. When can I use a leaf blower?

The City of Sacramento has adopted an ordinance regulating the use of leaf blowers within their city limit. This new ordinance dictates that leaf blowers can be used only during days of good air quality. Air quality levels are represented by the Air Quality Index (AQI). Please go to their website to see the city's requirements:

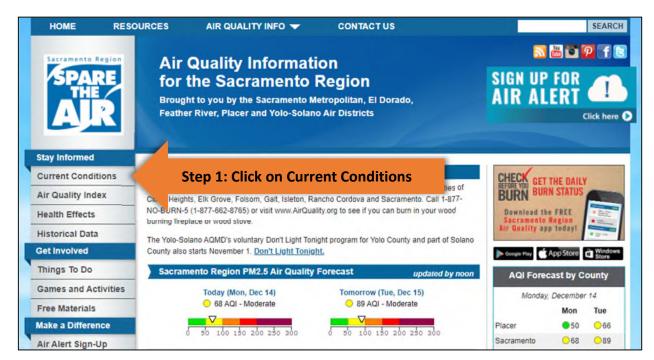
City of Sacramento Portable Leaf Blower Webpage

I live in the City of Sacramento. How do I complain about leaf blower use?

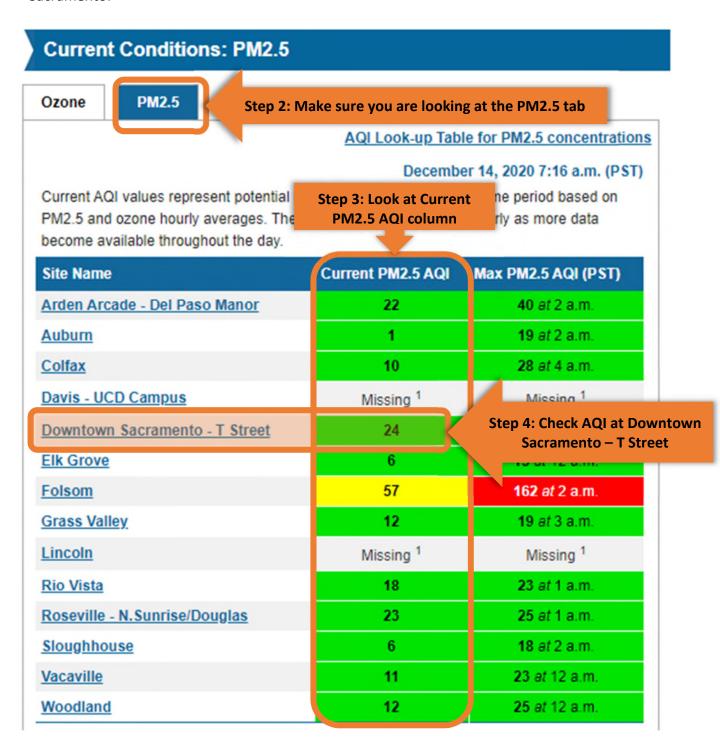
The City of Sacramento regulates leaf blowers used within their city. You can submit a complaint to the City by calling 311 or 916-808-5011 or emailing 311@cityofsacramento.org. More information from the City of Sacramento is found here: City of Sacramento Frequently Asked Questions

I live in the City of Sacramento. How do I check the current AQI?

To find the current AQI for Sacramento, visit the **Spare The Air** website at http://sparetheair.com/. To find the current AQI, click on **Current Conditions**:



Once on the Current Conditions page, click on the "PM2.5" tab in the table (see below). You will see the current AQI readings for all ambient air monitoring stations in the region. The air monitoring station located in the City of Sacramento is at "Downtown Sacramento – T Street". This is the monitoring station that is used to determine if leaf blowers can be used in the City of Sacramento.



Can I find out what the AQI will be in the future?

The forecasted AQI provides an indication of what the air quality may be like the following day. It is only a forecast and can't be used to know if you will be in compliance with the City of Sacramento ordinance.

The AQI forecast may help you plan ahead as to whether leaf blower use is *likely* to be restricted or not, but the only way to know if leaf blower use is allowed is to check the actual AQI, as described above.

To find the forecasted AQI for Sacramento for the next day, visit the **Spare The Air** website at http://sparetheair.com/.

