

ORDINANCE NO. ORD-24-18

First Reading: September 3, 2024 Approved:
Public Hearing: September 16, 2024 Published:
Effective:

CHAPTER 75
(LEAF BLOWERS)

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 75 (LEAF BLOWERS) OF TITLE VI OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

The City of Ann Arbor ordains:

Section 1. That Chapter 75 (Leaf Blowers) of Title VI of the Code of the City of Ann Arbor be amended to read as follows:

6:700. – Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to protect the peace, health, safety, and welfare of persons in the City of Ann Arbor and to promote the City's sustainability goals by reducing noise, pollution, and other negative effects from leaf blowers.

6:701. – Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings described in this section:

- (1) *Gas-powered Leaf Blower* means a Leaf Blower powered by an internal combustion engine, including gasoline, kerosene, diesel, propane, or other volatile fuel.
- (2) *Leaf Blower* means a powered portable, handheld, or backpack vacuum or blower used outdoors for the purpose of blowing or vacuuming light materials, such as dust, dirt, leaves, grass or plant clippings, stones, trash, or debris. It does not include snowblowers.
- (3) *Electric Leaf Blower* means a Leaf Blower that is not Gas-Powered and which is powered from an electrical outlet or from batteries.
- (4) *Turbine Blower* means a towed or wheeled Leaf Blower powered by a four-stroke internal combustion engine.

6:702. – Regulation of Gas-powered Leaf Blowers.

- (1) *Summer ban.* The use of Gas-powered Leaf Blowers is prohibited in the City from June 1 to September 30. Electric Leaf Blowers may be used during this time.
- (2) *Seasonal use and phase-out.* The use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers is permitted from October 1 to May 30 through the year 2027. Beginning January 1, 2028 the use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers is prohibited at all times in the City.

6:703. – ~~No Waste Off-property~~ Regulation of Leaf Blowers Generally.

- (1) ~~Blowing off-property prohibited.~~ It is prohibited to blow, ~~or sweep, or place~~ debris, trash, leaves, plant clippings, or yard waste into a neighboring property, ~~or any~~ street, sidewalk, drain, or public right-of-way.

6:704 - Exceptions.

- (1) Any Leaf Blower may be used at any time of year in the following circumstances:

- a. in an emergency to protect health, safety, or property; ~~or~~
- b. to restore property immediately after an emergency, such as to clear a walkway, driveway, or street from debris following a storm or other natural disaster;:-
- c. to prepare or conduct a lawful controlled or prescribed burn for ecological maintenance or ecological restoration; or
- b-d. _____

~~Any Leaf Blower may be used in for construction or repair of a street, sidewalk, or other paving construction or repair at any time when such work is otherwise permitted, including under Chapter 119 (Noise Control) of this Code.~~

- (2) Turbine Blowers may be used at any time of year ~~regardless of Section 6:702 and Leaf Blowers may be used outside of the hours of operation stated in Section 6:703~~ when necessary to maintain public facilities or prepare recreational facilities for use, such as golf courses or playing fields, ~~or to maintain public facilities.~~

6:705. – Penalties.

A violation of this chapter is a civil infraction punishable by a civil fine of not less than \$100 plus costs for a first offense and not less than \$250 plus costs for a subsequent offense, and which may be assessed against an individual who violates this chapter or the employer that permits or directs such individual to violate this chapter.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect ten days after publication.