

Hazard Review

- **Rocks or debris blowing or ricocheting into the eyes, face, or body.**
- **Nuisance dust inhalation.**
- **Overexposure to carbon monoxide if gas powered blower used indoors.**
- **Fire or flash from working with gasoline.**
- **Snap-back of starter.**

Related Safe Work Practices

- **Fuel Safety**

Required Personal Protective Equipment

- **Safety Glasses**
- **Dust mask**
- **Work shoes (preferably boots)**
- **Long pants**
- **Hearing Protective Device (optional)**

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NOTE: This safe work practice applies primarily to gas-powered leaf blowers, but may also be applied to electric leaf blowers as appropriate.

BEFORE

1. READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS.
2. PUT ON PPE. Always wear all personal protective equipment specified above to prevent injury from blowing or ricocheting rocks, glass, wire, and other debris.

NOTE: Power blowers used by the Recreation and Park Department are rated to run below the Cal-OSHA Action Level (85 dBA) for noise when maintained and properly operated. Hearing Protective Devices are not required at these noise levels; however, hearing protective devices may be worn for comfort. Power blowers rated at 85 dBA or more should not be used by the custodial staff.

3. **DRESS PROPERLY.** Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry. They can catch in moving parts. Pin up long hair so that it cannot be drawn into unit's air inlet. Always wear substantial footwear and long pants.
1. **INSPECT THE UNIT.** Inspect the unit before each use for worn, loose, or damaged parts. Do not use the unit until it is in proper working order.
2. **INSPECT THE WORK AREA.** Remove debris such as rocks, glass, and wire that could cause damage if blown.
3. **CLEAR BYSTANDERS.** Keep children, bystanders and pets a minimum of 10 meters (30 feet) away when starting or operating the unit.
4. **FUELING GAS POWERED UNITS (see *Fuel Safety*).** Refuel the unit before starting work.
 - Unleaded regular gasoline is highly flammable. Do not smoke or allow other ignition sources in the area while fueling. Do not use near ignition sources such as a water heater, welding operation, hot metal surfaces, etc.
 - Mix fuel with **oil for 2-cycle engines** in a ratio of **50 parts fuel to one part oil**. Pour half the gasoline into the container, add the oil, and shake to ensure mixing. Add the remainder of the gasoline and shake again.
 - Do **not** use boating or automotive oil or gasoline containing alcohol. These will damage the unit.
 - Mix only the amount needed for the job you are to do. Fuel mixtures stored for more than two months cause hard starting and poor performance. If the unit has been stored for longer than this time, remove fuel and replace with fresh fuel. Dispose used fuel as hazardous waste.
 - Refuel on a paved or concrete surface. Pour slowly to prevent spillage. If spillage occurs, wipe unit dry before using.
 - To prevent igniting gasoline vapors, move at least 10 feet away from the fueling point before starting the engine.
 - **Do not refuel a hot engine!**
5. **AVOID STRAIN.** Adjust shoulder straps so the machine fits your body comfortably. Keep the unit close to your body to avoid strain.
6. **INTENDED USES FOR GAS POWERED BLOWERS.** Gas powered blowers are to be used **ONLY** for blowing debris such as grass clippings, leaves, and paper garbage in **OUTDOOR** areas or for fast drying of wet outdoor areas such as a patio. Do not start or run the engine inside a closed room. Exhaust fumes contain dangerous carbon monoxide. Also do not use the blower for spreading chemical fertilizers or other purposes not specified above.
7. **INTENDED USE FOR ELECTRIC BLOWERS.** Electric blowers may be used indoors as there is no danger of carbon monoxide accumulation. If used

outdoors, only electrical cords UL approved for outdoor use and in good condition may be used. Never operate in wet or damp conditions due to concerns regarding moisture contact with electricity. Never stand in puddles of water while using the electric blower. **Do not use in the rain.**

10. **TAMPERING PROHIBITED.** Federal and state law prohibit tampering with emission control equipment on gas powered blowers for any reason other than maintenance of the unit. Specifically, do not tamper with the carburetor and internal parts, spark plug, magneto or electronic ignition system, fuel filter, or air cleaner element. Tampering not only results in release of exhaust substances which shouldn't be breathed, but may also cause the unit to run louder to the point where hearing can be damaged.

DURING

1. **PRIME ENGINE.** If the engine is not warmed up, press the priming button 2-3x before starting. This facilitates start-up by injecting gas into the carburetor.
2. **AVOID SNAP-BACK.** To avoid snap-back when starting the gas powered engine, do not pull the starter rope all the way, and rewind the rope slowly.
3. **KEEP UNIT UPRIGHT.** Always start and run the unit in an upright position. Tilting the unit can result in fuel or oil spillage.
4. **KEEP OPENINGS CLEAR.** Do not put objects in openings, and do not use with any blocked openings (fan coverings, air inlets, etc.); keep free of dust, lint, hair, and anything that may reduce air flow.
5. **DO NOT OPERATE WITHOUT PROPER GUARDS IN PLACE.**
6. **DO NOT HANDLE PLUG OR APPLIANCE WITH WET HANDS OR WHILE STANDING IN WATER.**
7. **BLOW AWAY FROM PEOPLE.** Always direct the discharge of debris away from people, animals, and solid objects such as trees, cars, walls, etc. The force of air can cause rocks, dirt, or sticks to be thrown or to ricochet which may hurt people or animals, break glass, or cause other damage.
8. **DO NOT WORK FROM UNSTABLE SURFACES.** Never work from unstable surfaces such as ladders, trees, steep slopes, rooftops, etc.
9. **DO NOT TOUCH MUFFLER, SPARK PLUGS, OR ROTATING PARTS.** Touching these parts while the unit is operating can result in burns or lacerations.

10. NEVER OPERATE THE BLOWER WITHOUT THE TUBING.
11. DO NOT USE THE UNIT FOR SPREADING OR MISTING CHEMICALS, FERTILIZERS OR OTHER TOXIC SUBSTANCES THAT COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY.
12. PROTECT CORD FROM DAMAGE. Make sure the electrical cord is not stretched around corners or sharp objects. Do not pull or carry appliance by cord. Do not use cord as a handle. Keep cord away from heat, oil, and solvents
13. STOP MOTOR IN CASE OF ABNORMAL VIBRATION. If the appliance should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the motor and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.
14. USE ALL FUEL IF POSSIBLE. Attempt to use all fuel before ending use (storing). This will prevent "gumming" of the blower with old fuel and oil.
15. STOPPING THE GAS-POWERED ENGINE.
 - Turn throttle lever to the low speed setting.
 - Push ignition switch to the "OFF" position.
 - Note: If for some reason the lead wires to stop the engine are disconnected, you cannot stop the engine even if you turn the ignition switch to the "STOP" position. In this case, turn the choke to a fully closed position in order to stop the engine. Submit unit for repair.

AFTER

1. DO NOT OPERATE THE BLOWER AFTER IT HAS BEEN DROPPED OR DAMAGED. Return it to your nearest authorized dealer for inspection or repair.
2. STOP MOTOR AND UNPLUG BEFORE LEAVING APPLIANCE. Stop the motor and unplug the supply cord whenever you leave the appliance, before cleaning the housing, before adding or switching attachments, and when making any repairs or inspections.
3. STORE IN A DRY LOCATION. This is important for preventing electrical and rusting problems.
4. MAINTENANCE AND EXTENDED STORAGE. Correctly maintaining as well as preparing the Power Blower for extended storage will be rewarded by increased service life and trouble free performance. Follow all instructions specified in the operator's manual.

5. STOP ENGINE BEFORE MAINTENANCE. Do not work on the unit without stopping the engine and disconnecting the spark plug wire.