

South Pasadena, CA Municipal Code

19A.12.4 Leaf blowers —Regulation of use.

(a) Commencing October 1, 2022, it is prohibited for any property owner (including the city) or tenant or any employee, agent, or contractor working for a property owner or tenant to operate or authorize the operation of a gas-powered leaf blower at any time for any purpose. The property owner or tenant, whichever person is responsible for authorizing the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, shall be responsible for violations of this section. The use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers approved by California Air Resources Board (CARB) shall be allowed until October 1, 2022.

(b) The property owner or tenant, whichever person is responsible for authorizing the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, shall be responsible for violations of this section. Until October 1, 2022, all gasoline-powered leaf blowers shall prominently display a city issued decal/seal verifying its status as approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

(c) Commencing October 1, 2022, the following shall be exempt from the provisions of subsections (a) and (b) of this section:

(1) Leaf blowers (gas-powered or electrically powered) utilized by emergency responders for the purpose of responding to an emergency, or necessary to restore, preserve, protect or save lives or property from imminent danger of loss or harm.

(2) Leaf blowers (gas-powered or electrically powered) used to clear downed trees in areas needing expedient clearance for the safety of the public.

(d) During the grace period following the enactment of revisions and up to the October 1, 2022, effective date, the city of South Pasadena will work with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and community organizations to provide outreach, education, and resources for commercial property owners, tenants, and homeowners. Outreach including the following will also extend to independent gardeners and large commercial grounds maintenance companies which may include, but not be limited to:

(1) Webinars, field workshops, print and digital informational materials, direct outreach including letters and door hangers, city web page, public service announcements, and a city phone number to call for ordinance details.

(e) As of October 1, 2022, no leaf blower shall be operated in a manner that directs dust and debris onto any neighboring parcel, storm drain, public property, or public street.

(f) Commencing October 1, 2010, no business license shall be issued to any gardener and/or landscaper without proof of purchase of a leaf blower(s) allowed under subsection (a) of this section and a signed declaration that the company will not use prohibited leaf blowers in the city.

(g) The full blower nozzle extension shall be used for maximum efficiency and to minimize the spread of dust.

(h) After leaf blower use, debris and waste materials shall be disposed of in the appropriate disposal receptacle or any other equivalent container.

(i) Leaf blowers shall be in proper working order and all manufacturers' noise and dust control equipment on the leaf blower shall remain on the blower and be in operating condition.

(j) Notwithstanding any other provision in this code, it is unlawful for any person to operate any leaf blower in any manner so as to create a maximum noise level of 65 decibels when measured from a distance of 50 feet from the equipment being used. (Ord. No. 1996, § 1; Ord. No. 2130, § 5; Ord. No. 2192, § 1, 2009; Ord. No. 2357, § 2, 2021.)

19A.12.5 Power yard maintenance equipment—Violation and penalty.

No person, whether as principal, agent, employee or otherwise, shall violate, cause the violation or otherwise fail to comply with the provisions of SPMC [19A.12.1](#) through [19A.12.4](#). Any violation of SPMC [19A.12.1](#) through [19A.12.4](#) shall be punishable as follows:

(a) For the first violation, the city manager or his/her designee, upon determination that a violation of this chapter has occurred, shall issue a written warning notice to the person which authorizes the use of gas-powered leaf blowers which will specify the violation and the appropriate penalties in the event of future violations.

(b) Thereafter, the following schedule shall apply:

(1) A fine not exceeding \$100.00 for the second violation;

(2) A fine not exceeding \$200.00 for the third violation;

(3) A fine not exceeding \$500.00 for the fourth and any subsequent violation that occurs. (Ord. No. 1996, § 1; Ord. No. 2130, § 6; Ord. No. 2201, § 3, 2010; Ord. No. 2357, § 3, 2021.)