



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**:

The screenshot shows the 'Spare The Air' website interface. At the top, there are navigation links: HOME, RESOURCES, AIR QUALITY INFO (with a dropdown arrow), and CONTACT US. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation is a banner for 'Air Quality Information for the Sacramento Region' with a 'SIGN UP FOR AIR ALERT' button. On the left, a 'Stay Informed' menu lists several options: Current Conditions, Air Quality Index, Health Effects, Historical Data, Get Involved, Things To Do, Games and Activities, Free Materials, Make a Difference, and Air Alert Sign-Up. An orange arrow points to 'Current Conditions'. The main content area displays the 'Sacramento Region PM2.5 Air Quality Forecast' with data for today (68 AQI - Moderate) and tomorrow (89 AQI - Moderate). A 'CHECK BEFORE YOU BURN' section is also visible.

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.

Current Conditions: PM2.5

Ozone

PM2.5

Step 2: Make sure you are looking at the PM2.5 tab

[AQI Look-up Table for PM2.5 concentrations](#)

December 14, 2020 7:16 a.m. (PST)

Current AQI values represent potential health effects based on the period based on PM2.5 and ozone hourly averages. The AQI is calculated based on the most recent data available as more data become available throughout the day.

Step 3: Look at Current PM2.5 AQI column

Site Name	Current PM2.5 AQI	Max PM2.5 AQI (PST)
Arden Arcade - Del Paso Manor	22	40 at 2 a.m.
Auburn	1	19 at 2 a.m.
Colfax	10	28 at 4 a.m.
Davis - UCD Campus	Missing ¹	Missing ¹
Downtown Sacramento - T Street	24	
Elk Grove	6	10 at 12 a.m.
Folsom	57	162 at 2 a.m.
Grass Valley	12	19 at 3 a.m.
Lincoln	Missing ¹	Missing ¹
Rio Vista	18	23 at 1 a.m.
Roseville - N.Sunrise/Douglas	23	25 at 1 a.m.
Sloughouse	6	18 at 2 a.m.
Vacaville	11	23 at 12 a.m.
Woodland	12	25 at 12 a.m.

Step 4: Check AQI at Downtown Sacramento – T Street

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/>.

Sacramento Region
SPARE THE AIR

Air Quality Information for the Sacramento Region

Brought to you by the Sacramento Metropolitan, El Dorado, Feather River, Placer and Yolo-Solano Air Districts

- Stay Informed
- Current Conditions
- Air Quality Index
- Health Effects
- Historical Data
- Get Involved
- Things To Do
- Games and Activities
- Free Materials
- Make a Difference
- Air Alert Sign-Up
- Survey Results
- Check Before You Burn

Check Before You Burn in Sacramento County

The annual Check Before You Burn season is underway in Sacramento County and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Galt, Isleton, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento. Call 1-877-NO-BURN-5 (1-877-662-8765) or visit www.AirQuality.org to see if you can burn in your wood burning fireplace or wood stove.

The Yolo-Solano AQMD's voluntary Don't Light Tonight program of Solano County also starts November 1. [Don't Light Tonight.](#)

Check next day AQI forecast here

Sacramento Region PM2.5 Air Quality Forecast updated by noon

Today (Tue, Jan 12)	Tomorrow (Wed, Jan 13)
● 95 AQI - Moderate	● 87 AQI - Moderate

Yesterday's High

Mon, Jan 11	Thu, Jan 14
● 78 AQI - Moderate PM2.5	● Moderate

Extended AQI Outlook

Fri, Jan 15	Sat, Jan 16
● Moderate	● Moderate