

Tips for Talking to your Lawn Care Provider

1. Be sure you are talking to the owner of the business. Many times, the workers at your home are not the decision makers about the tools that are used.
2. If you like the service the provider has been giving you, make sure they know you are happy with their work.
3. Tell them that you do not want gas leaf blowers used on your property going forward.
4. Tell them that there are two main reasons for this:
 - A. They are extremely noisy and you want to reduce the amount of very loud noise in the neighborhood. This noise is disruptive to the community and potentially dangerous for those that are close by.
 - B. These machines create significant amounts of air pollution and toxic emissions. These emissions pose risks to the health of workers and also to your family and the residents in the neighborhood.
5. If they push back to you on those two concerns, let them know that you have good information about this and that you feel strongly about these issues. Remember that this is your property and they are providing a service that you pay for!
6. You may want to tell them that you are happy to leave some of the debris from the grass cutting on the lawn and the leaves in the flower beds - this is good for the soil and should not be blown away!
7. Let them know that you are aware of other contractors offering this service. Tell them about the city of Portland moving away from gas blowers for taking care of the parks and other outdoor spaces in the city. It is possible to do this!
8. Be prepared for them to tell you why they can't do it. Listen to their concerns and be respectful, but if you feel strongly about this, you may need to be firm with them about insisting that they make this change.
9. They may ask you to pay an additional charge for this transition. The facts support that the final cost of operating battery powered equipment is actually less than operating gas powered equipment, but there is an up front cost for the new machines and batteries if that's the way they decide to go. Any additional costs however, should be very minimal.
10. If they are not willing to make this change, you can find other contractors who will do this for you. This can be used as a negotiating tool. Our website has a list of Portland contractors who provide gas free maintenance.