

LEAF BLOWERS

There are hand-held and back pack gasoline engine-powered blowers, walk-behind blowers, and lawn vacuums with optional kits for conversion to blowers. This type of equipment makes it easy to get leaves and twigs off the lawn quickly. The operator of a leaf blower should:

Never allow bystanders in the work area.

Never point the blower nozzle in the direction of people or pets.

Use a dust mask in dusty or dirty conditions.

Never operate in unventilated areas.

Take note of local ordinances -- hours of operation in residential areas may be limited.

Some additional safety precautions not yet mentioned are very important, too, and they apply to all types of outdoor power equipment. These are:

Clear area of children and pets.

Read the operator's manual and product decals before using the equipment, and be sure you understand the equipment's features and controls.

Dress properly for the job -- wearing eye protection is recommended.

Handle fuel carefully.

Fall can be a fun season for outside activities. And by following OPEI's recommendations on use of outdoor power equipment, you can also keep it a safe season.