



Landscape Equipment - Blowers

Employees must be properly trained before operating blowers. Training should include a review of the operator's manual as well as a skills evaluation to ensure employees understand the features of the equipment and can use it safely. Document all training with signoffs from each employee, when completed.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that should be used when operating a blower:

- **Body:** Long-sleeve shirt and long pants
- **Feet:** Anti-slip, ankle-height leather boots
- **Hands:** Heavy work gloves such as leather or similar anti-vibration
- **Eyes:** Goggles or safety glasses with side shields or wrap around lenses; may be shaded impact-rated sunglasses
- **Ears:** Ear plugs or muffs when operating or around noisy equipment

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Additional PPE when operating a blower:

- **Head:** Hard hats must be worn when working below overhead hazards such as low branches -- a sunhat for protection is also advised
- **Body:** Rain gear is recommended during wet weather – high-visibility clothing is required when working around traffic
- **Feet:** Wear rubber boots with anti-slip soles in wet conditions
- **Face:** Goggles must be worn when conditions are dry -- face shield is required when flying particles are likely (goggles or safety glasses must be worn underneath a face shield)
- **Hands:** Nitrile gloves may be worn for potential chemical exposures
- **Lungs:** Respirator such as a disposable dust mask can be used on a voluntary basis

Many hazards are involved when using a gasoline-powered blower including:

- Foreign objects in the eyes (dirt, debris, or other particles)
- Slopes, uneven, or unstable ground that could potentially result in slips, trips or falls
- Diverted attention—watching what you are blowing, not where you are walking
- Exposure to outdoor environments including insects, sun and allergens
- Noise and vibration exposure
- Exposure to exhaust gases such as carbon monoxide in poorly ventilated areas
- The weight of each blower will vary, but proper support should be maintained throughout the use of the equipment
- Exposure to gas, oil and other fluids
- Burns from the exhaust system

Before operating a blower:

- Inspect and test the equipment to manufacturer requirements before each use to ensure the safety devices are working
- All guards must be in place and the equipment in good, ready-to-use condition
- Complete a written field inspection form to document that the equipment is working properly and suitable for use
- Do not use the equipment if unsafe conditions exist

Maintenance and repairs:

- Do not work on running or hot equipment
- Inspect, report and replace blowers before leaving the yard
- Check over the machine carefully for loose, broken or damaged parts -- repair or replace before using
- Only an authorized and qualified equipment mechanic should make repairs

The advice presented in this document is intended as general information for employers.

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