



Backpack Leaf Blowers

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions. Find more Toolbox Talks on the [Occupational Safety web page](#).

General Information

Leaf blowers are used for rapid clean-up of lawn, leaf, and debris. However, flying dirt and debris that may be produced can turn a simple job into a dangerous one. Before equipment operation ensure you have received proper training.

Before operating

- Read the operator's manual.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) which may include:
 - Hearing protection (ear plugs or muffs)
 - Safety glasses
 - Long pants
 - Gloves
 - Closed toe and heel shoes with good traction
- Tie long hair back and remove loose clothing and jewelry.
- Ensure shoulder straps are properly adjusted to reduce back strain.
- Inspect the work area for hazards like broken glass or small stones that could become projectiles.
- Ensure others are not within the work area during operation.
- Be aware of the wind direction to prevent blowing debris into pedestrians or traffic.
- Perform a visual inspection of the blower, muffler, and air filters.
- Check the fluid levels before use.
- Turn off to perform maintenance.
- Allow the engine to cool before refueling and always refuel on the ground.



Backpack Leaf Blower Safety Tips

- Do not use for drywall, plaster, soil, or cement and concrete mix.
- Do not use the blower while on a ladder, roof, or other unstable surface.
- Do not leave a running blower unattended.
- Never point the nozzle toward people or animals.
- In case of an incident, immediately turn off the blower and seek first aid.

Discussion Date:

Supervisor:

Participants:

Photo Source: [Grainger](#)