



Conversation Guide: Speaking with Your Landscaper

When you're ready to speak with your landscaper about reducing or eliminating the use of gas leaf blowers on your property, here are some tips and talking points you can use.

Prepare for the call. This is a conversation about *what tasks should be done, how*. A few things you should consider in advance are:

- *What tasks do your landscapers perform on your property using leaf blowers?*
Common tasks include:
 - Removing grass clippings and other small debris (weekly)
 - Blowing all hard surfaces on your property (weekly)
 - Blowing out landscaped beds (spring and fall)
 - Removing leaves and seasonal debris (spring and fall)
 - Removing debris from pruning hedges and shrubs (occasional)
- *Are all of these tasks necessary?* On our [Quiet Alternatives](#) page, you can read about how lawns and gardens benefit from less aggressive approaches. For example, grass clippings can be left alone to recycle nutrients into the soil, while fallen leaves can be mulched in place with a lawn mower.
- *Are you OK with battery-electric leaf blowers being used?* This may be an option, depending on your landscaper. If they are not yet offering these tools, this is a great time to ask for it, at least during summer months.
- *Are you willing to pay a bit more?* Most landscaping services use a business model that relies on speed and power. Using alternative methods and tools *may* take more time, particularly in fall and spring, and this may require charging you more.

Speak with the boss. Make sure that you are communicating with the owner of the company or another person with decision-making authority.

Start with your key goals and open up a conversation about options.

- “I want to eliminate [or reduce] the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on my property, and I'd like to talk about what options you offer.”
- Talk briefly about why you want to make this change. For example:
 - “Gas leaf blowers are extremely loud and disruptive, and they make it hard for anyone around our home to concentrate or work.”

- “I have become aware of how much noise and pollution is created by gas leaf blowers, and the related health risks. I want to go with a different approach.”
- “I have learned that my yard and gardens can really benefit from mulching leaves and keeping them on the property.”
- Avoid arguments about the merits of gas leaf blowers. Instead, focus the conversation on what alternative options your landscaper can offer you.
 - “I understand the concern about the time it will take to service my property without gas leaf blowers. Let’s talk about specific tasks and options for handling them.”
 - “This fall, I’d prefer to have leaves mulched with a mower and used on the lawn and in my garden beds, rather than removed. Can we discuss options there?”

Focus on constructive, problem-solving conversation.

- Make sure you are not talking past each other. If you are not asking that the crew rake your entire lawn or sweep your whole driveway every week, for example, make sure that is understood.
- It’s only in the last year or two that [battery-powered tools](#) have become quite competitive with gas-powered tools, at least for most tasks. Your landscaper may not be following this closely or may not have much experience with battery tools. Encourage them to look into options.
- Acknowledge possible trade-offs and say what you could accept. For example, you may be fine with grass clippings being left on the walk until the wind blows them away, or with paying a small premium to help defray the upfront costs of purchasing battery-powered equipment.

End the conversation with a clear way forward.

- Ideally, you and your landscaper will agree to some changes that either eliminate or reduce the use of gas-powered leaf blowers on your job. Ask for a written confirmation of some kind.
- If you are not able to come to an agreement on changes, perhaps you can agree to talk again in a few months. Encourage your landscaper to visit our [For Landscapers](#) page and learn more about alternatives.
- Ultimately, you may want to look into other providers. We plan to highlight landscapers who are happy to offer service without gas leaf blowers on our [Resources](#) page.