



Home Owner News



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Electric vs Gasoline Lawn Mowers?



The gasoline-fueled lawn mower has been the suburban homeowner's mower of choice for decades. Gas mowers are powerful machines and gasoline, up until recently, has been an inexpensive fuel. Today however, with the increase in gasoline prices and the advent of some very powerful electric mowers, as well as battery powered models, it may be time to re-evaluate the merits of electric mowers.

Pollution

Gasoline Powered: *The USEPA estimates that each year the nation's 83 million gasoline-fueled lawn mowers produce as much air pollution as 3.5 million automobiles.* When people consider sources of air pollution, they seldom take into account the amount of pollution created by a lawn mower. However, the reality is that, in the United States, gasoline fueled lawn mowers emit about 124,000 tons of hydrocarbons and 980,000 tons of carbon gases into the atmosphere each year. Cutting an average lawn with a gasoline fueled lawn mower creates as much air pollution as driving a car 50 miles.

In addition, spillage and improper handling of oil and gasoline while using lawn mowers contributes to further environmental contamination. The EPA estimates that 17,000,000 gallons of gasoline are spilled while refilling lawn & garden equipment each year.

Electric Powered: "Pollution free"

Noise

Gasoline Powered: Gas-powered lawn mowers can sometimes make as much noise as a motorcycle (about 95 decibels). Besides potential damage to hearing, many communities consider noisy gasoline powered tools to be a nuisance and are adopting strict noise ordinances to restrict their use.

Electric Powered: Extremely quiet

Safety

Gasoline Powered: There are considerable risks associated with the storage and handling of an explosive/flammable substance such as gasoline. Each year, significant property damage, personal injuries and deaths are attributed to the mishandling of

gasoline while using lawn & garden equipment

Electric Powered. With corded models, it is important to use a quality extension cord plugged into a GFCI to minimize the risk of electrical shock. It is also important to take care not to run over the extension cord while mowing. Battery powered models seem to be "hazard free" (except for the dangers of associated with being injured by a moving mower blade)

Cost Of Maintenance & Operation

Gasoline Powered:

Maintenance: Sharpen blade, change oil, air filter, spark plugs,

Cost of Operation: Cost of gasoline (Ouch!)

Electric Powered:

Maintenance: Sharpen blade

Cost of Operation: Electric mowers use about as much electricity as an ordinary toaster. Mowing an average lawn costs about \$6.00 in electricity for the entire season.

Convenience

Gasoline Powered: Gasoline needs to be purchased & stored at your house.

Electric Powered: Fuel (electricity) is always available and the mower is always ready to go. With corded electric mowers, you're limited only by the length of the extension cord. Electric & battery operated mowers are convenient to transport without the worry of spilling fuel in your car or truck. Once fully charged, battery operated models don't even need access to an electrical outlet. Many of today's battery powered mowers are capable of operating continuously for 2 hours or more before needing to be recharged.

