

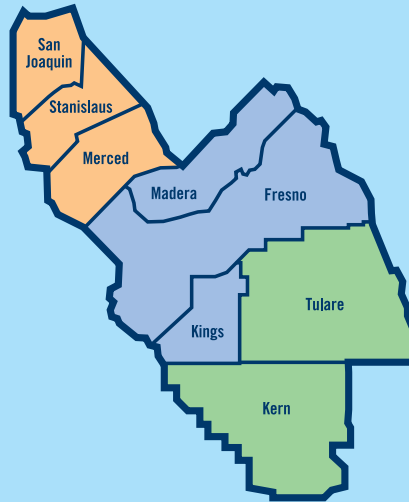


AIR QUALITY IN THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Despite years of air-quality improvements, the San Joaquin Valley air basin fails to meet state and federal health-based standards. In addition to stringent control measures, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District implements public-information campaigns, such as the Spare the Air and Check Before You Burn programs, to educate Valley residents about air-quality issues. The District also provides numerous incentives, including the Clean Green Yard Machines lawn mower trade-in program, to help the public make air-friendly choices in purchasing products.



For more information about air-friendly yard care and the District's lawn mower trade-in program, visit www.valleyair.org. Or call the nearest District office, listed below.



Northern Region

Serving San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced counties
4800 Enterprise Way, Modesto, CA 95356-9322
Tel: 209-557-6400 FAX: 209-557-6475

Central Region (Main Office)

Serving Madera, Fresno and Kings counties
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue, Fresno, CA 93726-0244
Tel: 559-230-6000 FAX: 559-230-6061

Southern Region

Serving Tulare and the Valley portion of Kern counties
2700 M Street, Suite 275, Bakersfield, CA 93301-2373
Tel: 661-326-6900 FAX: 661-326-6985



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

Please visit our web site at www.valleyair.org

CLEAN-AIR YARD CARE

Pollution-reducing tips for lawn and garden care



San Joaquin Valley
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

1-800 SMOG INFO
www.valleyair.org

A gas-powered lawn mower can produce 40 times the pollution of a late-model car, and a gas-powered leaf blower can emit 80 times that of a car over a one-year period.

Lawn Equipment and Air Quality

Although most people don't associate small engines used in gardening and lawn care with air pollution, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, trimmers, chain saws and other garden equipment emit smog-forming chemicals, carbon monoxide and particles that are harmful to human health.

Even the small engine of a lawn mower can produce 40 times the pollution of a late-model car, while a gas-powered leaf blower can emit 80 times that of a car over a one-year period.

Gas-powered leaf blowers have become popular since their introduction in the 1970s and are used almost as often as mowers and other lawn-care equipment. Leaf blowers contribute to regional air-quality problems by generating smog-forming chemicals from fuel evaporation and combustion. Also, dust and other particles kicked up by a leaf blower can reach concentrations that are unhealthy for the user and any bystanders.

Leaf blowers have long been a source of complaints because of another type of pollution – noise. Many communities now prohibit their use due to the high levels of noise they produce.



Alternatives for Clean Yard Care

For every gasoline-burning yard care tool, an electric or manual option is available that usually works just as well and pollutes much less – or not at all! Instead of selling or giving away old gas-burning yard equipment so it continues to produce pollution by someone else, take it to a recycling center where the metal can be reused in other products.

Using manual tools for lawn and garden care is particularly handy for small yards. A rake or broom can work just as well as a blower and produces much less dust.

Choosing a low-maintenance landscape can save time and water, creating less pollution. Use slower-growing grasses or ground covers that require little or no mowing, or plant trees and native plants in place of grass. Properly placed trees also help cool your home, reducing both energy costs and air pollution.



Clean Green Yard Machines

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District helps residents reduce air pollution by offering them a discount to buy non-polluting mowers. Through the program, gasoline-powered mowers are retired and turned into scrap metal to be reused for other products.



Pollution-Reducing Tips

If you do choose to use gas-powered lawn equipment, preventing spills is one of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce emissions. Even small gas spills evaporate and release smog-forming emissions into the air. Here are some tips to prevent gas spills:

- Use a gasoline container you can hold easily and securely.
- Use caution when pumping gas into the container.
- Use a funnel or an automatic stop device to prevent overfilling.
- Keep the cap or spout and any vent holes closed tightly.

Properly maintaining any engine is important for it to run as cleanly as possible. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for maintenance, including:

- Change the oil and clean or replace the air filters regularly.
- Use the proper fuel/oil mixture in two-stroke equipment.
- Get periodic tune-ups for all gasoline-powered equipment.
- Maintain sharp mower blades and keep the underside of the mower deck clean.

