

The Advantages of All-Electric Yard Tools

Keep your yard beautiful without the hassle and pollution of gas tools



Battery electric outdoor tools are quieter, safer and more convenient. They cost less to operate, they don't endanger our health, they are better for the environment, and powerful enough to handle even the largest yards and gardens.

Electric tools are powerful and easier to use:

- Instant start—no pulling cords, priming engines etc.
- Excellent cutting, blowing and trimming power
- Long run times and easy battery swap outs
- Multiple tools can use the same batteries
- No refilling fuel tanks, engine oil and gas cans
- No replacing spark plugs, air filters and fuel filters

Electric tools have lower operating costs:

- 10 times less expensive per hour of operation
- No expensive engine tune-ups

Electric tools are safer for operators, the public and the environment:

- Quieter – gas tools create dangerous noise that can cause permanent hearing loss. Battery powered tools are less than half as loud, and operate at safe noise levels.
- No harmful engine exhaust – gas tools produce pollutants linked to cancer, asthma, heart and lung disease
- No smog forming air pollution – small gas engines are a leading source of air pollution in urban areas
- No solid toxic waste or fuel spills – tons of spent fuel filters, air filters, spark plugs and oil cans from gas tool use are sent to landfills every year
- Dramatically lower carbon pollution – less than 1/10th the carbon emissions of gas powered tools
- Safer for pollinators, insects and wildlife

Resources

- [Tips and resources on how to ditch the gas power tools.](#)
- [Battery/electric alternatives](#) are better for the environment
- [What to know about going electric](#) for outdoor power tools



Tips for buying and using battery electric tools

- **Start with a tool you use a lot**, or one that needs to be replaced as your first battery electric tool.
- **Do your research** to find a tool that meets your needs—Consumer Reports, Pro-Tool Reviews are good resources for product information and tests.
- **Major hardware retailers, like Home Depot, Lowes, and Ace Hardware are good places to find equipment** and give you the benefit of customer service if you have a problem with the product.
- **Choose from brands that offer multiple products** so you can share batteries between products once you start adding tools. Each brand has their own battery configuration that works only with their tools—so it will save you money to buy all your tools from one brand.



Be battery smart:

- **Buy only branded batteries**—they will be higher quality and have better warranties and the brands will stand behind their products. You can usually get the best deal by buying a tool with a battery included, but you can also buy them separately.
- **Get a mix of battery sizes**—smaller ones for quick jobs and bigger ones when you need long run times. A 5AmpHour (AH) battery is good for most jobs, but it can be useful to have a lighter 2.5AH battery and maybe a 7.5AH battery for lawnmowers or snowblowers.
- **Keep the batteries plugged in to a charger whenever you are not using it.** This will ensure you are always fully charged up to start a job and will extend the life of the battery. Chargers come as individual units or combo units that can handle multiple batteries at once.

Practice healthy yard care

A beautiful yard can be a healthy ecosystem and a vibrant habitat

A combination of healthy yard maintenance practices and safer tool choices makes it possible to achieve beautiful outdoor spaces and also keep our neighborhoods quiet and safe. The best way to promote the health of ecosystems and people is through the principles of ecological/sustainable landscape design and maintenance.

A less manicured yard lets nature do its thing! The more relaxed we are about a few leaves here and there, the less time-consuming our yards are to maintain, and the healthier the soil and garden will be. There is no need to keep things looking “un-naturally” clean.



Sustainable Practices

- [Sustainable Landscape Principles](#) – practices that are non-polluting and resource efficient
- [Healthy Yards](#) – ten steps for a healthy yard
- [Wildlife Habitat Certification](#) – native plants that are friendly to birds and insects

Additional Resources:

- [Leave the leaves](#) – leaves and other plant matter under trees and shrubs helps build mulch, healthy soil and habitat for pollinators and wildlife.
- [Grasscycling](#) – leave grass clippings on the lawn or use a mulching mower. Clippings are a natural fertilizer, beneficial for the lawn and will decompose and disappear quickly.
- [Avoid fertilizer and pesticides](#) – most yards do not need these dangerous chemicals which are harmful to wildlife and insects and waterways.
- [Plant care](#) – avoid the use of leaf blowers around plantings as they erode and compact the soil, and damage habitat for beneficial insects and pollinators
- [Help pollinators](#) – plant native plants and flowers with staggered blooming times, and do not use pesticides.
- [Reduce or replace your lawn](#) – lawns take lots of water and labor to maintain. Reduce the size of your lawn or replace it with plants that take less water and maintenance and provide habitat for insects and birds.