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POWER FLOAT - (Petrol)

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS & WARNINGS

It is in the interests of those operating this equipment, and for the safety of others, that these **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS & WARNINGS** are carefully read and understood before operating this equipment.

PURPOSE

1. This equipment is designed to produce a flat smooth surface on large areas of freshly laid cement and concrete.

PERSONAL SAFETY

2. This equipment is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it. It must not be operated by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
3. If the equipment is not used in a safe, careful and controlled way, personal injury or injury to others may result.
4. This equipment is heavy. Enlist additional assistance to move it.
5. Take the necessary precautions when handling cement, as it may be harmful to the eyes and lungs. Continued cement contact with the skin may cause dermatitis, therefore wash hands thoroughly after contact with cement.
6. Vibration from this equipment may be at a level that could be hazardous to the user, if operated for extended periods. Always wear gloves and ensure hands are warm before starting work and they remain warm and dry. Do not grasp the equipment too tightly, only sufficient to safely control the machine. If you experience tingling, numbness or loss of strength in the fingers – stop working immediately. Take frequent breaks and exercise the hands and arms to minimise risks.
7. This equipment employs the use of petrol, which can cause fire and explosion if not handled in a safe manner.
8. Before attempting to operate this equipment you must familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics.
9. Before starting your work, think and plan ahead to ensure you, and others around you, will be working in a safe environment.
10. When using this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
 - Ear defenders providing protection up to 96dB(A).
 - Safety waterproof boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972.
 - Impact resistant goggles to EN166-B or BS2092 protection.
 - Face mask to give a minimum of EN149ff2(s) protection.
 - Appropriate industrial gloves.

NOTE: Other types of work, or environment, may require a higher level of PPE.

OPERATING AREA SAFETY

WARNING: If used indoors or in confined spaces this equipment could cause fatal carbon monoxide poisoning. Never use it in domestic premises and if used in other indoor situations you must ensure you first assess its suitability and the ventilation required for safe use. Mechanical extraction ventilation will be required in almost every case.

11. Before commencing work, ensure that the area you are to operate the equipment in is a safe environment. Erect safety barriers and warning signs as necessary.
12. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions and hazards (projections, cables, pipes, etc.).
13. Never run the equipment inside buildings, or in poorly ventilated locations, where they may be risk of serious or fatal injury from inhaling exhaust (toxic) fumes. **See warning above.**
14. Before commencing work, warn others who may be working in the vicinity of the equipment, to keep clear. If possible place safety barriers around your work area.
15. Protect others from noise and wet cement.
16. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear the appropriate PPE.
17. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.

BEFORE OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

SAFETY CHECKS

18. Visually inspect the equipment and all its accessories (engine, power float, safety barriers, etc.) for serviceability (completeness, signs of damage, undue wear, etc.). Do not use the equipment if found damaged or worn - contact the hire company immediately.
19. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function.
20. Stop the equipment before attempting to make any adjustments.
21. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.

OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

USING THE EQUIPMENT

22. Before commencing work, correctly adjust the height of the handlebars.
23. Various types of blades can provide different finishes.
24. To change blades, unscrew the wing nuts/bolts securing the four blades, remove the existing blades and replace them with alternative blades. Re-tighten the securing wing nuts.
25. After starting the engine, pull-in the clutch lever (located on the right-hand handlebar) to start the blades rotating. Release the clutch lever to stop the blades rotating.
26. Operate the throttle lever (located on the left-hand side of the handlebar) to maximum speed for the best results.

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27. Adjust the angle of the blades by rotating the blade adjustment wheel or tilting the blade pitch lever (dependent on model).
28. The equipment will now move easily. Use wide sweeping movements.
29. To move the equipment to the left, lift the handlebar steadily. To move it to the right, push down steadily on the handlebar.
30. Keep the equipment moving to prevent uneven surfaces appearing. For best results, do not trowel in the same area for too long.

FLOAT TROWELLING

31. This method produces a smooth finish to cement/concrete and is best achieved when the cement/concrete leaves a shallow depression of up to 3mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in) from the weight of an average man standing on the cement/concrete.

FINE TROWELLING

32. This requires the fitting of finishing blades to the equipment.
33. Test the surface of the cement/concrete by gently pressing the palm of the hand on the cement/concrete surface. For ideal conditions, the cement/concrete should not adhere to the hand.
34. Two passes are needed for fine trowelling. For the first pass, the blades should be set at a slight angle to prevent placing undue pressure on the surface of the cement/concrete. The second pass should be left until just before the concrete sets too solidly.

STARTING AND STOPPING THE EQUIPMENT

Note: Below is a brief description of **STARTING** procedure for the majority of power floats. If the hire company has provided dedicated instructions for your type of machine – follow them.

35. Check the fuel and oil levels and top-up as necessary.
36. Turn the on/off switch to the '**ON**' position and '**CLOSE**' the choke lever.
37. Turn the fuel tap to the '**ON**' position.
38. Hold on to the equipment with one hand and with the other, take-up the slack of the starter handle cord until you feel the starter has engaged with the engine. Now pull firmly on the starting handle. Once the engine has started, allow the starter cord to retract.
39. Once the engine has started and warmed-up, adjust the throttle until the engine idles and '**OPEN**' the choke.
40. To stop the engine, '**CLOSE**' the throttle lever, turn the fuel tap '**OFF**' and move the on/off switch to the '**OFF**' position.
41. Stop working and switch-off the machine if someone approaches you.

REFUELLING

42. Refuel with petrol only.
43. The engine must not be running whilst refuelling. Warm engines must be allowed to cool down first.
44. Do not smoke whilst refuelling.
45. Clean the area around the fuel filler cap, then, remove it.
46. Using a clean funnel, pour petrol into the fuel tank. Care must be taken not to overfill or spill. Fuel spilt on the engine must be wiped dry, that spilt on the ground must be removed and the area covered with sand or earth. Fuel soaked clothes must be removed.
47. Replace the fuel filler cap securely.

SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE

48. Visually check the condition of the equipment at the start of each day.
49. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.

50. Immediately you have finished using the equipment, wash it down with clean water to remove all traces of cement.
51. Periodically clean the equipment to ensure it is free from dust, dirt and other debris.
52. Always store the equipment in the up-right position.
53. When the equipment is left unattended for long periods (i.e. overnight), ensure it is made secure to prevent unauthorised use or loss.

COLLECTION & PICK-UP

54. For safety reasons this equipment requires you to use a **LORRY**.

