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MASONRY SAW BENCH - (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 type of saw is designed for cutting blocks of concrete, masonry, brick and other similar materials using the appropriate cutting wheel (abrasive or diamond).

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 employs the use of petrol, which can cause fire and explosion if not handled in a safe manner.
5. Cutting paving slabs, kerb stones, or other concrete or stone materials may produce a large amount of very fine dust known as; Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS). Exposure to RCS can cause serious health problems when breathed into the lungs. See: **RCS SAFETY** below.
6. Before attempting to operate this equipment you must familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics.
7. Before starting your work, think and plan ahead to ensure you, and others around you, will be working in a safe environment.
8. When using this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
 - Ear defenders giving protection for levels up to 86dB(A).
 - Impact resistance goggles to EN166-B or BS2092, Grade 1.
 - Dust mask to provide RPE20 protection, or a filtering face piece mask to FFP3 standard.
 - Appropriate industrial gloves.

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

RCS SAFETY

9. Operators cutting paving slabs, kerb stones or other concrete and stone materials with this type of equipment must use the most effective measures to minimise the escape and spread of RCS as follows:
 - Ensure the attached water tank always contains sufficient water for the task being undertaken.
 - Ensure sufficient and regulated water flow is supplied to the material being cut.
 - Where possible use a diamond tipped cutting blade rather than an abrasive one. Diamond tipped blades cut faster and therefore reduce exposure time to RCS.
 - Change cutting blades frequently. Don't allow cutting blades to wear down or become blunt.

- Always wear a correctly fitted and serviceable dust/face mask of the correct type.

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.

10. 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.
11. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions and hazards (projections, cables, pipes, etc.).
12. 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.
13. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear the appropriate PPE.
14. Protect others from noise, dust and debris.
15. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.

BEFORE OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

SAFETY CHECKS

16. Visually inspect the equipment and all its accessories (engine, saw wheel, 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.
17. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function.
18. Do not use this equipment to cut asbestos or materials containing asbestos.
19. Do not attempt to operate this equipment in confined or enclosed spaces without adequate ventilation due to the risk of inhaling toxic exhaust fumes, which can prove fatal.
20. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.

OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

CUTTING WHEEL SAFETY

21. Selection of the correct type of cutting wheel is vitally important. Select as follows:
 - Must be the correct type of wheel for the material to be cut.
 - The wheel speed (marked on the side of the wheel) must be greater than the spindle speed of the machine (as indicated on the machine).

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- **The bore size of diamond wheels must be the same as the bore size of the machines spindle.**
22. Cutting wheels must only be fitted or changed by those trained and experienced to do so.
 23. Always use sharp blades and the appropriate ones for the material being cut.

USING THE EQUIPMENT

24. Site the equipment on firm, level ground.
25. Always use both hands to hold and control the cutter.
26. Ensure the wheel guard is correctly in place and secure.
27. The saw edge of the cutting wheel must only be used for cutting. Using the side of the wheel may cause it to shatter.
28. If 'dry-cut' wheels are not being used, ensure that there is water in the water tank before starting work and that its level is periodically checked and top-up as necessary.
29. Once the engine has started, open the water tap and adjust the flow of water to the cutting wheel - unless you are using dry cutting wheels.
30. Always ensure the cutter is running at its optimum running speed before attempting to cut.
31. If the equipment has a sliding table, ensure it moves freely and unrestricted.
32. Be aware of the reactive forces when the cutting wheel first contacts the material being cut.
33. This equipment is for cutting straight lines only, do not attempt to cut around corners or bends.
34. Do not allow the machine to labour, reduce depth of cut and make a series of passes.
35. Do not leave the equipment running and unattended.
36. Stop working and switch-off the machine if someone approaches you.

STARTING THE EQUIPMENT

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

37. Check the fuel and oil levels and top-up as necessary.
38. Hold the equipment firmly with one hand when starting the machine.
39. Set the engines controls correctly.
40. 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.

REFUELLING

41. Refuel with petrol only.
42. The engine must not be running whilst refuelling. Warm engines must be allowed to cool down first.
43. Do not smoke whilst refuelling.
44. Clean the area around the fuel filler cap, then, remove it.
45. 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.
46. Replace the fuel filler cap securely.

SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE

47. Visually check the condition of the equipment at the start of each day.
48. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do

not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.

49. Periodically clean the equipment to ensure it is free from dust, dirt and other debris.
50. 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

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

