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## PLATE COMPACTOR - (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 for compacting hardcore, the levelling of paving blocks or similar surfaces.

### 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 may result.
4. Before attempting to operate this equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics.
5. 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 sufficiently 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.
6. Before starting your work, think and plan ahead to ensure you will be working in a safe environment.
7. When operating this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
  - Safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972.
  - Ear defenders giving protection for levels up to 98dB(A).
  - Dust mask to a minimum of EN149ffp2(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.

8. Before commencing work, ensure that the area you are to operate the equipment in is a safe environment.
9. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions and that no one is near you that could distract you.
10. Be aware that operating this equipment may damage pipes or cables laid just beneath the surface.

11. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear the appropriate PPE.
12. Before commencing work, warn others who may be working in the vicinity of the equipment, to keep clear. If possible place barriers and safety signs around your work area.
13. Never run the equipment inside buildings, or in poorly ventilated locations, where there may be risk of serious or fatal injury from inhaling exhaust (toxic) fumes. **See warning above.**
14. Where at all possible, protect others working in the vicinity, from the noise, debris and dust.
15. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.

### OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

#### SAFETY CHECKS

16. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments operating characteristics and controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function.
17. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.
18. Visually check your equipment and all its accessories for serviceability (completeness, undue damage, wear, etc.). Do not use the equipment if found to be incomplete, damaged or worn - contact the hire company immediately.

#### USING THE EQUIPMENT

19. Ensure you grip the equipments handle with both hands while working.
20. If your equipment is fitted with a reverse gear, take care when walking backwards.
21. Use a water spray on the surface being worked on to prevent the work surface from 'sticking' to the underside of the compactor plate.
22. On some surfaces (i.e. paving block) a rubber mat, fixed to the plate, is needed to protect the finished surface.
23. If your compactor is fitted with transport wheels, ensure they are secured correctly before using the equipment.
24. When the equipment is unattended, ensure the machine is switched-off.
25. If anyone approaches you, switch the machine off.

#### STARTING THE EQUIPMENT

**Note:** If the hire company has provided you with special or additional instructions, you must follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.

26. Check the fuel and oil levels and top-up as necessary.
27. Turn the on/off switch to the 'ON' position and 'CLOSE' the choke lever.
28. Turn the fuel tap to the 'ON' position.
29. 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.
30. Once the engine has started and warmed-up, 'OPEN' the choke and adjust the throttle until the engine idles.
31. To stop the engine, 'CLOSE' the throttle lever, turn the fuel tap to the 'OFF' position and move the on/off switch to the 'OFF' position.

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**REFUELLING**

32. Before refuelling, move the machine to a safe environment.
33. Stop the engine and allow it to cool down before refueling.
34. Do not smoke whilst refuelling, as petrol is inflammable.
35. Ensure the area around the filler cap is clean.
36. Use a clean funnel and clean petrol when refueling.
37. Be careful not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine. Should a spillage occur, wipe clean and dispose of all fuel soaked material carefully and safely.
38. Replace the fuel cap and secure correctly.

**SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE**

39. Visually check the condition of the equipment at the start of each day.
40. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.
41. Periodically clean the equipment to ensure it is free from dust dirt and other debris.
42. 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**

43. For safety reasons this equipment requires you to use a **LORRY, VAN** or an **ESTATE**.

