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## HEDGETRIMMER (Petrol/Oil Mix - 2 Stroke)

### 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 cutting and trimming hedges, shrubs and other similar foliage.

### 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. The equipment has a sharp reciprocating blade. If the equipment is not used in a safe, careful and controlled way, personal injury or injury to others may result.
4. Before attempting to operate this equipment you must familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics.
5. Before starting your work, think and plan ahead to ensure you, and others around you, will be working in a safe environment.
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. When operating this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
  - Ear defenders providing protection up to levels of 98dB (A).
  - Impact resistant goggles to EN166-B or BS2092, Grade 1.
  - Dust mask providing a minimum protection up to EN149 ffp2(s).
  - Appropriate industrial gloves.

**NOTE: Other types of work, or environment, may require a higher level of PPE.**
8. Petrol is highly flammable; take care not to cause a fire or an explosion.

### OPERATING AREA SAFETY

9. 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.
10. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions and hazards (projections, cables, pipes, thick branches, etc.) and that no one is close by that could distract you whilst operating the equipment.
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 safety barriers and signs around your work area.

13. To protect others from noise, keep people at least 10m (32ft) away from the work area.
14. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.

### BEFORE OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

#### SAFETY CHECKS

15. Visually inspect the equipment for serviceability (completeness, signs of damage, undue wear, etc.). Do not use the equipment if found damaged or worn - contact the hire company immediately.
16. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments 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.

### OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

#### USING THE EQUIPMENT

18. Always use both hands to hold and control the hedgetrimmer when in use.
19. If using the trimmer at heights above shoulder height, use a rigid and stable platform.
20. Ensure the hedgetrimmer is running at full speed before attempting to cut.
21. Remove foliage a little at a time, layer by layer; do not 'labour' the motor by attempting to cut thick twigs or branches.
22. Stop working and switch-off the machine if someone approaches you.

#### STARTING THE HEDGETRIMMER WHEN 'COLD'

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

23. Place the hedgetrimmer on firm level ground with the blade clear of the ground.
24. Pull the choke 'OUT' and engage the part throttle lock.
25. Hold the front hand guard firmly with the left hand, with the right hand 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.
26. Once the engine is running, squeeze and release the throttle control. Push th choke lever 'IN' once the engine has warmed-up.
27. Should the engine move whilst on the ground with the blade reciprocating, do not use the hedgetrimmer – contact the hire company.

#### STATING THE HEDGETRIMMER WHEN 'HOT'

28. Follow the instructions from step 22 to 26 without using the choke and part throttle setting.

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**REFUELLING**

29. This is a two-stroke engine; refuel with a mixture of 25 measures of petrol and one measure of two-stroke oil (unless directed otherwise). The petrol and oil must be thoroughly mixed before pouring into fuel tank.
30. The engine must not be running whilst refueling. Warm engines must be allowed to cool down first.
31. Do not smoke whilst refueling. Move hedgetrimmer away from work area before re-fuelling.
32. Clean the area around the fuel filler cap, then remove it.
33. Using a clean funnel, pour the mixture 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.
34. Replace the fuel cap securely.

**SECURITY & MAINTENANCE**

35. Visually check the condition of the hedgetrimmer at the start of each day.
36. Periodically lubricate the cutting blades with oil.
37. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.
38. Periodically clean the hedgetrimmer to ensure it is free from dust, dirt and other debris.
39. 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**

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

