



LAWN MOWER - Self Propelled (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 equipment is designed for cutting grass on level and flat ground.

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. Before attempting to operate this equipment you must familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics.
6. Before starting your work, think and plan ahead to ensure you, and others around you, will be working in a safe environment.
7. When using this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
 - **Dust mask to a minimum protection of EN149ffp2(s).**
 - **Ear defenders providing protection up to 96dB(A).**
 - **Safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972.**
 - **Appropriate industrial gloves.**

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

OPERATING AREA SAFETY

8. 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.
9. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions and hazards (projections, cables, pipes, etc.).
10. Don't attempt to cut wet, thick or overgrown grass with this equipment.
11. 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.
12. To reduce the risk of inhaling toxic fumes, never run this equipment inside enclosed spaces.
13. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear the appropriate PPE.
14. If you plan to burn the waste produced from this equipment ensure it is safe to do so.
15. Protect others from noise.
16. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.

BEFORE OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

SAFETY CHECKS

17. Visually inspect the equipment and all its accessories (engine, grass box, controls, guards, 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.
18. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function.
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

USING THE EQUIPMENT

21. Ensure that there is no waste material under the equipment and that the grass box is empty before you attempting to start the machine. Ensure the grass box is fitted correctly and securely.
22. When working, always hold the equipments handle firmly with both hands.
23. Keep hands and feet clear of the cutting blades at all times.
24. Ensure the work area is clear of large stones, wood, wire, cables or similar obstructions before starting work.
25. Do not use this equipment on steep slopes.
26. Always ensure the equipment is running at its optimum running speed before attempting to mow.
27. Always stop the engine and allow the cutting blades to stop rotating before removing the grass box.
28. Do not tilt the equipment to clear obstacles (i.e. concrete, paving stones, etc.).
29. Should you need to clear a waste blockage in the equipment, stop the engine, allow the cutting blades to come to a complete stop and disconnect the spark plug lead.
30. Do not allow the machine to labour, raise the cutting height of the blades and make a second pass with a lower blade height.
31. Before attempting to remove grass that has tangled in the cutting blades, stop the engine, allow the cutting blades to come to a complete stop and disconnect the spark plug lead.
32. Should you need to undertake any adjustments, stop the machine and disconnect the spark plug lead before proceeding.
33. Stop working and switch-off the machine if someone approaches you.

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STARTING THE EQUIPMENT

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

34. Check the fuel and oil levels and top-up as necessary.
35. Open the fuel valve near the fuel tank.
36. Set the engines controls correctly.
37. Hold the equipment firmly with one hand.
38. With the other 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.

REFUELLING

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

SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE

45. Visually check the condition of the equipment at the start of each day.
46. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.
47. Periodically clean the equipment to ensure it is free from grass cuttings and other debris.
48. 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

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

