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BRUSH CUTTER - (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 grass, brush, undergrowth, and with the correct attachments, small saplings.

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 sharp rotating blades. 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 107dB (A).
 - Face shield to EN166-B or BS2092, Grade 1.
 - Safety helmet to EN397 or BS5240.
 - Safety boots to EN345 or BS1870/4972.
 - 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

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.

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 (stones, rocks, projections, cables, pipes, etc.) and that no one is close by that could distract you whilst operating the hoist.
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. Do not use this equipment in confined or poorly ventilated areas where there is a danger from toxic fumes. **See warning above.**
14. To protect others from noise, keep people at least 10m (32ft) away from the work area.
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 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. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.

OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

USING THE EQUIPMENT

19. Always use both hands to hold and control the cutter.
20. Always wear the harness correctly when using the equipment.
21. Always use sharp blades and the appropriate ones for the material being cut.
22. Fit only the correct cutting attachments and ensure they are firmly fixed and secure.
23. Ensure the cutting blade guard is adjusted correctly and is securely in place.
24. Only use the cutter at ground, or near ground, level.
25. Ensure the cutter is running at full speed before attempting to cut.
26. Remove undergrowth a little at a time, layer by layer; do not 'labour' the motor by attempt to cut thick or entwined undergrowth.
27. Stop working and switch-off the machine if someone approaches you.

STARTING THE BRUSH CUTTER WHEN 'COLD'

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

28. Pull the choke '**OUT**' and engage the part throttle lock.
29. Place the brush cutter on firm level ground with the cutting attachment clear of the ground.

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30. 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.
31. Once the engine is running, squeeze and release the throttle control. Push the choke lever 'IN' once the engine has warmed-up.
32. Should the cutting attachment move whilst on the ground with the blades rotating, do not use the brush cutter – contact the hire company.

STATING THE BRUSH CUTTER WHEN 'HOT'

33. Follow the instructions from step 27 to 31 without using the choke and part throttle setting.

REFUELLING

34. This is a two-stroke engine; refuel with a mixture of 25 measures of petrol and one measure of two-stroke oil. The petrol and oil must be thoroughly mixed before pouring into fuel tank.
35. The engine must not be running whilst refueling. Warm engines must be allowed to cool down first.
36. Do not smoke whilst refueling. Move brush cutter away from work area before re-fuelling.
37. Clean the area around the fuel filler cap, then, remove it.
38. 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.
39. Replace the fuel cap securely.

SECURITY & MAINTENANCE

40. Visually check the condition of the brush cutter at the start of each day.
41. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.
42. Periodically clean the brush cutter to ensure it is free from dust, dirt and other debris.
43. 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

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

