



# LONG REACH HEDGE TRIMMER (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 tall (out of normal reach) 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. When operating this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
  - Safety helmet to EN397 standard.
  - Ear defenders, providing protection to EN352; SNR=25.
  - Impact resistant goggles to EN166-B or BS2092, Grade 1.
  - Strong, sturdy boots or shoes with non-slip soles.
  - Appropriate industrial gloves.

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

7. Petrol is highly flammable; take care not to cause a fire or an explosion.

## 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, thick branches, tripping hazards, fences, etc.) and that no one is close by that could distract you whilst operating the equipment.
10. Ensure you have sufficient area to work in and can comfortably reach the area to be cut. If you are required to work using a ladder or platform, ensure they are secure and safe before commencing work.
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. Check to ensure that there are no overhead electrical cables within 15m (50ft) of the intended place of work.
14. To protect others from noise, keep people at least 10m (32ft) away from the work area.
15. Never run the hedge trimmer in enclosed spaces or poorly ventilated areas.
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 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, familiarize yourself with the equipments controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function.
19. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.

## OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

### USING THE EQUIPMENT

20. Always use both hands to hold and control the hedge trimmer when in use.
21. Attach the shoulder strap to your body and adjust its length until the hedge trimmer sits comfortably near your right hip.
22. Use a steady swinging action, working from the bottom upwards when cutting.
23. If using the trimmer at heights above shoulder height, use a rigid and stable platform.
24. Ensure the hedge trimmer is running at full speed before attempting to cut.
25. Always ensure the cutting blades are operating at full speed before attempting to cut.
26. Remove foliage a little at a time, layer by layer; do not 'labour' the motor by attempt to cut thick twigs or branches.
27. Beware of debris thrown out by the cutting blades.
28. Periodically clear the work area of cut debris, having first stopped the machine.
29. Always stop the hedge trimmer before placing it on the ground, when moving location or leaving it unattended.
30. Stop working and switch-off the machine if someone approaches you.

### STARTING THE HEDGE TRIMMER WHEN 'COLD'

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

31. A trigger interlock is fitted to prevent accidental operation of the trigger. This must be depressed before the trigger can be operated.
32. The main control lever has two positions; '**RUN**' for normal running and a '**STOP**' position.
33. If your hedge trimmer has a fuel primer, this requires pressing (2-3 times) when starting the equipment from cold.
34. If your hedge trimmer has a decompression valve, this only requires pressing when each fresh attempt to start the equipment is made.
35. Only operate the choke control lever when attempting to start the equipment from cold.
36. Before starting hedge trimmer, place it on firm ground. Remove the blade cover. Ensure the cutting blades are clear of the ground and any other obstructions.
37. Hold the equipment body firmly by the left hand.
38. With the right hand, slowly pull on the starter handle until the starter is felt engaging with the engine, then pull on the starter handle strongly and quickly to start the engine. Allow the starting cord and handle to retract under control into the body of the machine.
39. Once the engine is running and warmed-up, push the choke control lever to the normal running position.

**STARTING THE HEDGE TRIMMER WHEN 'HOT'**

40. Move the control lever to the starting position and ensure the choke is in the **'RUN'** position.
41. Follow the instructions from steps 36 to 38.

**ONCE THE HEDGE TRIMMER IS RUNNING**

42. Check that the hedge trimmer blades move freely and come to a halt when throttle control lever is released.
43. Lift the hedge trimmer and secure it to the shoulder strap.
44. Keep your left hand on the grip of the hedge trimmer shaft and use the right hand to control the throttle.
45. Allow the harness to take the weight of the hedge trimmer whilst working.
46. Be aware that the gearbox (near the cutting blades) may become hot to touch.

**REFUELING**

47. 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.
48. The engine must not be running whilst refueling. Warm engines must be allowed to cool down first.
49. Do not smoke whilst refueling. Move the hedge trimmer away from work area before re-fuelling.
50. Clean the area around the fuel filler cap, then remove it.
51. 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.
52. Replace the fuel cap securely.

**SECURITY & MAINTENANCE**

53. Visually check the condition of the hedge trimmer at the start of each day.
54. Periodically lubricate the cutting blades with oil.
55. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.
56. Periodically clean the hedge trimmer to ensure it is free from dust, dirt and other debris.
57. When the equipment is left unattended for long periods (i.e. overnight), ensure it is made secure to prevent unauthorized use or loss.

**COLLECTION & PICK-UP**

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

