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T: 0845 094 0707

POSTHOLE BORER - (PETROL/OIL MIX)

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 to bore holes in soil or clay to accommodate a variety of posts using the appropriate auger attachments.
THIS EQUIPMENT MUST ONLY BE OPERATED BY TWO ABLE BODIED ADULTS.

PERSONAL SAFETY

2. This equipment is designed for operation by able bodied adults. 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 may be heavy. Enlist additional assistance to move it.
5. This equipment may produce high levels of vibration, which after prolonged contact could become harmful to the operator. Ensure hands are warm before starting the equipment and keep them warm. Take frequent breaks from using the equipment and regularly exercise the hands and wrists.
6. This equipment employs the use of a petrol and oil mix, which can cause fire and explosion if not handled in a safe manner.
7. Before attempting to operate this equipment you must familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics.
8. Before starting your work, think and plan ahead to ensure you, and others around you, will be working in a safe environment.
9. When using this equipment, it is recommended that the following items of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) be worn:
 - Ear defenders providing protection up to 102dB(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

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.

10. 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.

11. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions and hazards (projections, cables, pipes etc.) both above and below ground.
12. Never run the equipment inside buildings, or in poorly ventilated locations, where they may be risk of serious or fatal injury from inhaling exhaust (toxic) fumes. **See warning above.**
13. 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.
14. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear the appropriate PPE.
15. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting materials from petrol fumes.
16. Do not leave freshly bored holes unguarded for any lengthy period, if necessary cover with substantial boarding to prevent people stepping into the hole.

BEFORE OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

SAFETY CHECKS

17. Visually inspect the equipment and all its accessories (engine, control handles, augers, safety barriers, 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, you and your assistant operator must familiarise yourselves with the equipments controls. Make sure you both understand their purpose and function.
19. As the equipment may emit high levels of noise, agree with the other operator on a series of action signs that may be required to be given.
20. Ensure you and the other operator have no loose or flapping clothing that could become caught when the equipment is in use.
21. Ensure the area immediately around the hole to be bored is clear of loose debris (bricks, wood, cable, wire, etc.).
22. Always stop the equipment before attempting to make any adjustments to it.
23. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.

OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

AUGERS AND EXTENSIONS

Note: If the hire company has provided dedicated instructions for fitting augers and extensions for your particular type of equipment – follows them.

24. Various types and sizes of augers and extensions are available for boring a variety of holes (diameters and depths). Choose the most appropriate auger or extension for the hole to be bored.
25. Do not fit the auger until you are ready to commence work.
26. Fully familiarise yourself (along with your assistant) with the controls of the equipment.

PREPARING TO BORE

27. Check the equipments fuel level and top-up as necessary.
28. With the equipment lying on its side, resting on its control handles, locate the auger spindle squarely into the equipments spindle drive housing and ensure it is securely locked in position.

STARTING THE EQUIPMENT

Note: If the hire company has provided dedicated instructions for starting and stopping your particular type of equipment – follows them.

29. Lay the equipment on its side resting on its control handles with the tip of the auger resting gently on the ground.
30. Turn the on/off switch to the '**ON**' position and '**CLOSE**' the choke lever.
31. Turn the fuel tap to the '**ON**' position.
32. 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.
33. Once the engine has warmed-up, adjust the throttle until the engine idles and '**OPEN**' the choke.
34. To stop the engine, '**CLOSE**' the throttle lever, turn the fuel tap '**OFF**' and move the on/off switch to the '**OFF**' position.
35. Stop working and switch-off the machine if someone approaches you.

COMMENCE BORING

36. Lift the equipment to the upright position and locate the auger perpendicular over the hole to be bored.
37. With both operators firmly holding the control handles and taking a firm footing, carefully open the throttle and press down steadily on the equipment. Once the tip of the auger has broken the surface of the ground, steadily open the throttle to increase rotation speed of the auger. Be aware of the reaction forces (torque) of the equipment when boring commences.
38. Be alert at all times, if the equipment starts to labour or jam, close the throttle immediately and attempt to lift the equipment slightly and recommence boring by slowly opening the throttle.
39. Keep a steady downward pressure on the equipment whilst boring until the auger has reached its maximum depth, extensions may then be fitted to obtain greater depth of penetration.
40. To fit an extension, unlock the auger and lift the equipment clear of the auger spindle. Locate and secure the extension into the top of the auger spindle. Relocate the equipments drive spindle onto the extensions spindle and securely lock it in position.
41. After the required depth of hole has been reached, carefully commence lifting the equipment out of the bored hole (with the borer still rotating) until the extension connection is visible.
42. Close the throttle to '**IDLE**' the equipment and unlock and remove the equipment from the extension spindle. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PERFORM THIS ACTION WITH THE BORER STILL ROTATING.**
43. Remove the extension from the auger spindle. Reposition and lock the equipment onto the auger spindle. With the equipment running and the borer rotating commence lifting the equipment until the auger is clear of the hole.
44. After prolonged use, the auger or extension may become blunt and may require changing.

REFUELING

45. 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.

46. The engine must not be running whilst refueling. Warm engines must be allowed to cool down first.
47. Do not smoke whilst refueling.
48. Move equipment away from work area before re-fuelling. Clean the area around the fuel filler cap before removing it.
49. Using a clean funnel, pour 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.
50. Replace the fuel cap securely.

SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE

51. Visually check the condition of the equipment at the start of each day.
52. If the equipment operates erratically, or incorrectly, do not use and do not attempt to repair it. Inform the hire company.
53. Periodically clean the equipment to ensure it is free from dust, dirt and other debris.
54. 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

55. For safety reasons this equipment requires you to use a **LORRY**.

