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## MASONRY SAW BENCH - (110/230v)

### 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 saw is designed for cutting blocks of concrete, masonry, brick and other similar materials using the appropriate cutting wheel (abrasive or diamond).

### 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. Before attempting to operate this equipment you must familiarise yourself with the equipment, its controls and operating characteristics.
5. Cutting paving slabs, kerb stones, or other concrete or stone materials may produce a large amount of very fine dust known as; Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS). Exposure to RCS can cause serious health problems when breathed into the lungs. See: **RCS SAFETY** below.
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:
  - Ear defenders giving protection for levels up to 86dB(A).
  - Impact resistance goggles to EN166-B or BS2092, Grade 1.
  - Dust mask to provide RPE20 protection, or a filtering face piece mask to FFP3 standard.
  - Appropriate industrial gloves.

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

8. With regard to electrical safety implications when using this equipment, see the section on 'ELECTRICAL SAFETY' below.

### RCS SAFETY

9. Operators cutting paving slabs, kerb stones or other concrete and stone materials with this type of equipment must use the most effective measures to minimise the escape and spread of RCS as follows:
  - Where possible, use a diamond tipped cutting blade rather than an abrasive one. Diamond tipped blades cut faster and therefore reduce exposure time to RCS.
  - Some electrically powered cut-off saws employ an industrial vacuum cleaner as a means of extracting the RCS. Ensure this device is operating efficiently.
  - Never employ water with this equipment as the equipment is electrically operated.

- Change cutting blades frequently. Don't allow cutting blades to wear down or become blunt.
- Always wear a correctly fitted and serviceable dust/face mask of the correct type

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY

10. The operating voltage of this equipment may be either 110v (yellow industrial plug connector), or 230v (square pin or blue plug connector).

#### 110v MASONRY SAWS (Yellow Plug)

11. Only use a portable transformer and only plug the transformer directly into the 230v socket.
12. Only suitably rated, heavy-duty 110v extension cable, not longer than 50m (160ft), must be used between the transformer and the equipment. Do not use 230v extension cables.
13. When routing the extension cable, avoid immersion in liquids and trapping the cable in windows, doorways and other areas that could cause damage to the cable. Avoid laying the cable in areas that are subject to site traffic. Ensure all connections are kept dry.

#### 230v MASONRY SAWS (Square Pin or Blue Plug)

14. To safeguard against electrical shock, always connect the equipment into a residual current device (RCD) that in turn is connected to a 230v socket.
15. Before using the equipment, press the 'RED' test button on the RCD to ensure that it is working. Re-set the RCD according to the instructions provided.
16. Only suitably rated, heavy-duty 230v extension cable, not longer than 50m (160ft), must be used between the mains (RCD) and the equipment.
17. When routing the extension cable, avoid immersion in liquids and trapping the cable in windows, doorways and other areas that could cause damage to the cable. Avoid laying the cable in areas that are subject to site traffic. Ensure all connections are kept dry.

### OPERATING AREA SAFETY

18. 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.
19. Make sure that the work area is clear of obstructions and hazards (projections, cables, pipes, etc.).
20. 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.
21. Anybody who is working near to you will also need to wear the appropriate PPE.
22. Protect others from noise, dust and debris.
23. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of igniting fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.

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## BEFORE OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

### SAFETY CHECKS

24. Visually inspect the equipment and all its accessories (engine, saw wheel, cables, plugs, 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.
25. Before attempting to operate the equipment, familiarise yourself with the equipments controls. Make sure you understand their purpose and function.
26. Do not use this equipment to cut asbestos or materials containing asbestos.
27. Before you start the equipment, you must know how to **STOP** it in an emergency.

## OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT

### CUTTING WHEEL SAFETY

28. Selection of the correct type of cutting wheel is vitally important. Select as follows:
  - **Must be the correct type of wheel for the material to be cut.**
  - **The wheel speed (marked on the side of the wheel) must be greater than the spindle speed of the machine (as indicated on the machine).**
  - **The bore size of diamond wheels must be the same as the bore size of the machines spindle.**
29. Cutting wheels must only be fitted or changed by those trained and experienced to do so.
30. Always use Diamond or Abrasive discs, whichever is appropriate for the material being cut.

## USING THE EQUIPMENT

31. Site the equipment on firm and level surface.
32. Ensure the wheel guard is correctly in place and secure.
33. The saw edge of the cutting wheel must only be used for cutting. Using the side of the wheel may cause it to shatter.
34. If 'dry-cut' wheels are not being used, ensure that there is water in the water tank before starting work and that its level is periodically checked, top-up as necessary.
35. Once the motor has started, open the water tap and adjust the flow of water to the cutting wheel - unless you are using dry cutting wheels.
36. Always ensure the cutter is running at its optimum running speed before attempting to cut.
37. If the equipment has a sliding table, ensure it moves freely and unrestricted.
38. Be aware of the reactive forces when the cutting wheel first contacts the material to be cut.
39. This equipment is for cutting straight lines only, do not attempt to cut around corners or bends.
40. Do not allow the machine to labour, reduce the pressure on the work piece.
41. Do not leave the equipment running and unattended.
42. Stop working and switch-off the machine if someone approaches you.

## SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE

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

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

