



# Using the Poker Vibrator

1. Wear protective equipment including gloves, goggles and safety boots.
2. You may need to allow the unit to warm up for a few minutes in cold weather for maximum efficiency.
3. If the vibrating head does not vibrate when the machine is started, tap the nose onto a hard surface. Do not tap or hit the outer housing of the head.
4. Watch out for signs that vibration may be affecting your hands. If fingers start to tingle or feel numb, take a short break from using the machine. Exercise fingers to encourage blood circulation. Find out more about vibration. Ask the hire company for a copy of the HAE leaflet no. 2150 – Hand-arm vibration or visit www.hse.gov.uk/vibration
5. To help prevent vibration affecting hands, operate the machine for shorter periods, or share the job with a workmate. Keep hands warm - wearing gloves may help do this.
6. Take care not to bend the flexible drive through tight angles, for example over shuttering.
7. Always move and withdraw the vibrating head steadily - this will help avoid creating voids.
8. Do not touch the vibrating part of the poker while it is in operation.
9. Do not lay the vibrating poker on a hard surface while it is still vibrating. It will cause damage to the surface and the poker.
10. Do not disengage the flexible drive coupling while the motor is running.
11. Take care not to accidentally pull the plug from the socket.
12. Stop the unit and unplug it if leaving the machine unattended.
13. If the cable is found to be cut or damaged in any way, switch off and unplug at the socket before inspecting it. If the cable attached to the drive unit is damaged, stop using the machine. Contact the hire company. If an extension cable has been damaged, do not use it again.
14. The poker vibrator must be cleaned as soon as work is finished before any concrete on it goes hard.
15. If the flexible drive has been disengaged, take care to keep the open end of it clean - do not leave it lying in dirt.
16. If the equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.
17. You may want to read this leaflet again. Please keep safely it until you finish work.



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**230 VOLT MACHINES (SQUARE PIN OR BLUE PLUG)**

1. Use a residual current device (RCD) plugged directly in to the 230volt socket. Plug the machine into the RCD. This will help to protect against electric shock if the cable or machine gets damaged.
2. Use the "TEST" button to check that the RCD is working each time it is used. Reset the RCD according to the instructions supplied with it.
3. If an extension cable is required to be used, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company has not given any special instructions, a suitably rated heavy duty extension cable must be used, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). Plug it directly into the RCD.
4. Lay it out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
5. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

**Summary:**

110V: Wall socket > transformer > any necessary extension cable > RCD > extension cable > poker vibrator.  
230V: Wall socket > RCD > any necessary extension cable > poker vibrator.

**110 VOLT MACHINES (YELLOW PLUG)**

Read the instructions below for your machine. 110V machines will have a yellow industrial plug fitted, 230V machines will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug. Anybody who is working close by will also wear identical personal protective equipment.

**POKER VIBRATOR**

1. Check the drive unit, flexible drive and couplings, and vibrating head. If anything is found to be damaged, do not use the poker vibrator. Contact the hire company.
2. The following items of personal protective equipment must be worn: goggles; dust mask - a minimum of FFP3 protection; ear muffs or plugs giving protection to reduce exposure to 87dB(A) at the ear; Safety boots; industrial quality gloves; residual-current device (RCD) if using a 230 volt (mains) supply.
3. A personal first-aid kit should be available.
4. This machine must not be used by young persons, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
5. This poker vibrator is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.
6. Some poker vibrators are heavy machines, get help if you have to unload it from your vehicle. Do not lift beyond your own capabilities.

**OPERATORS**

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn whenever the poker vibrator is used. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection. Ensure there is no loose or missing clothing that could get caught in the machinery.
2. Goggles must be worn when working with this machine.
3. The equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 93 dB(A) - wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
4. Safety boots/wellingtons must be worn. Remember that you may have to stand in wet concrete.
5. Vibration from using this machine can be hazardous. Warm hands up before starting work, and wear industrial quality gloves to keep hands warm while working. Find out more about the effects of vibration. Ask the hire company for a copy of the HAE leaflet no. 2150 – Hand-arm vibration or visit www.hse.gov.uk/vibration
6. Industrial quality gloves, long sleeves, and full trousers must be worn to prevent the mix coming into contact with bare skin.
7. Anybody who is working close by will also wear identical personal protective equipment.
8. Position the drive unit so that you can easily reach all of the concrete you need to work on. Make sure that the flexible drive is not going to be damaged by traffic, or create an obstruction.
9. Clear the area of trip hazards such as rubble, rubbish etc.
10. Work should stop immediately should anyone, other than those directly assisting using this equipment, get in the way when physical barriers, barrier tape and signs. Where the poker vibrator is being used with up an exclusion zone around the area wet cement. Warn others to keep away and protect other people from the noise and cause distractions.
11. Make sure that the work area is clear and safe and that no-one is close by and could be injured, or gas cylinders.
12. Do not use this machine where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.

**WORK AREA**

1. Wash cement or plaster mixes from skin immediately. Thoroughly rinse out eyes. Seek medical advice immediately.
2. Contact dermatitis is a rash that may occur when the skin reacts to certain substances. The rash can vary but it is usually itchy and causes flaky skin and only occurs where the substance is in contact with the skin.
3. Wet cement mix is a substance that can cause contact dermatitis.
4. Mill dermatitis will heal providing there is no further contact. If the rash persists seek medical advice. Learn more about contact dermatitis - visit www.bdcs.org.uk
5. Gloves, long sleeves and full trousers must be worn to prevent the mixes coming into contact with bare skin.

**BEFORE STARTING WORK**

**CEMENT MIXES AND CONTACT DERMATITIS**

**Before Starting Work...**

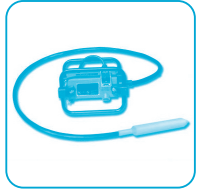
Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

# Poker Vibrator

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

## It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE using the Poker Vibrator

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. If you have not used this type of poker vibrator before, familiarise yourself with how the machine works before you start on the main task.
3. Electricity is dangerous and must always be used with great care.
4. Electricity and water make a very dangerous combination. Keep electrical equipment away from rain and water.
5. Cement mixes are harmful to eyes, lungs and skin. Take precautions to prevent contact with cement mix.
6. This poker vibrator is designed for use in fresh concrete to remove air voids and speed the release of trapped water. It is not designed for any other purpose.
7. The action of this poker vibrator can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
8. The following items of personal protective equipment must be worn: goggles; dust mask - a minimum of FFP3 protection; ear muffs or plugs giving protection to reduce exposure to 87dB(A) at the ear; Safety boots; industrial quality gloves; residual-current device (RCD) if using a 230 volt (mains) supply.
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