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1654 Safety Guidance
2 STROKE PETROL v:032017

Banner

# Garden Vacuum/Blower

**This safety instruction leaflet gives guidance on hand held machines only; most of these will incorporate a harness. Some machines will only operate as a garden vacuum, some are only garden blowers, but most machines can be used as a vacuum or blower.**

## It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE using the Garden Vacuum/Blower

1. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
2. This equipment is designed to blow leaves and other debris from gardens, paths and lawns into corners and other suitable areas, ready to be loaded into bags or containers for disposal, and to vacuum up outdoor areas that are lightly covered with garden debris into the collection bag ready for disposal.
3. In use, this equipment can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used carefully and properly;
   (a) Do not point at, or touch, anyone with the suction nozzle or blower outlet;
   (b) Removing the vacuum bag on some units may expose the fan/impeller; wait until the engine stops completely;
   (c) Parts of this equipment get very hot; the operator must take care not to burn themselves or others.
4. If the machine is designed to be used with a harness, the harness must be used.
5. The operator must practice using the controls and operating the equipment before using it, if they have not used it before. This must be done in a safe place until the operator is confident that they can operate it safely.
6. The job must be planned to try to forsee any problems that may occur so that they can be safely dealt with.
7. The following is a list of the minimum of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that must be worn:
   - Ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 90dB (A);
   - Impact resistant goggles: EN166 B or BS2092 grade 1;
   - Gloves
   - Strong shoes
   - Overalls or long sleeves and full trousers;
   - A dust mask may also be required – providing a minimum of EN149:2001 FFP3 protection;
8. This machine must not be operated by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.is designed for use by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either a temp
9. This garden blower is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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# Using the Garden Vacuum/Blower

1. Protective equipment must be worn including goggles, dust mask, ear defenders and gloves.
2. Check that there is no waste material in the machine before the engine is started.
3. Never out hands over the vacuum nozzle or the blower outlet while the machine is in operation.
4. Never point the machine at anyone, not even at a distance.
5. If it is necessary to clear a blockage, make an adjustment, or empty the collection bag, the machine must be stopped and the engine and impeller fan allowed to come to a complete stop. For extra safety remove the spark plug lead, this will prevent the engine starting up unexpectedly.
6. If any parts or tubes need to be removed to clear the blockage, note/remember how and where they fit.
7. All the tubes and parts must be replaced before reconnecting the spark plug lead and starting the engine.
8. The engine must be stopped if anyone approaches whilst the operator is working.
9. The engine must be stopped before leaving the machine unattended

**Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference**

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## Before Starting Work...

### WORK AREA

1. Do not use this equipment near to petrol or LPG storage areas or places where there may be an explosive atmosphere. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic exhaust fumes, the machine should never be used indoors. There must be proper ventilation when the equipment is being used in confined areas.
3. The area to be worked in should be clear and safe and there should be no-one nearby who could cause a distraction.
4. Other people should be protected from noise and injury. Keep others, especially children and animals well away, it may be necessary to put warning signs or barriers around the work area.
5. The work area should be visually checked before starting the machine, removing hard objects like glass, wire or cans which may injure someone if blown or would damage the machine or collection bag if sucked in.

### OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn when using the machine. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 90 dB(A) – appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level must be worn.
3. Impact resistant goggles must be worn when using the equipment as a blower (EN166 – B or BS2092 grade 1).
4. If work is being carried out on a dusty surface an appropriate dust mask must be worn (with a minimum of EN149:2001 FFP3 protection).
5. Strong gloves should be worn for protection when handling any waste material. Rubber gloves must not be worn; they may cause a build-up of static electricity.
6. Long trousers must be worn and long sleeves to protect against ejected waste material and sharp thorns and insects.
7. Anybody working nearby will also need to wear personal protective clothing..
8. In case of an accident it is advisable to work within visual or hearing range of someone who can offer assistance.

### GARDEN BLOWER/VACUUM

1. Check the engine, collection bag, harness and all equipment. Anything found to be damaged should not be used. Contact the hire company.
2. The equipment should not be used as a general vacuum, or to pick up litter like cans and bottles.
3. Prolonged vacuuming of fine dusts like sawdust will clog up the collection bag and diminish suction. This will reduce the efficiency and overheat the machine.
4. Do not use as a vacuum to collect water or other liquids. Do not vacuum anything that is wet. Damp leaves or similar should be blown to a fresh pile before vacuuming, this will remove excess water.
5. The operator must understand all of the controls. Before the machine is started it must be understood how to stop it.

### HARNESS

1. If the machine is designed to be used with a harness, it is because it is too heavy to be used without it.
2. If the harness attachment points are on the machine, the harness should always be worn after it has been properly adjusted. This applies to both vacuuming and blowing.
3. If the harness attachment points are on the vacuum collection bag it usually means that the harness only needs to be worn when vacuuming.
4. The shoulder harness should be put on and adjusted properly before carefully attaching the garden vacuum. Attach the equipment using only the correct clips and fastenings.

### REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Use a fresh mixture of 2 stroke engine oil with petrol. If the hire company have given special instructions on how much oil to use, follow them. Otherwise use 1 measure of the 2 stroke oil to 25 measures of petrol (40 ml per litre).
3. The oil and petrol MUST be mixed in a separate container and NOT in the machines tank.
4. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
5. If possible, the machine should be moved away from the work area.
6. The filler cap and the area around it should be cleaned to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
7. Shake the fuel can to mix the petrol and oil.
8. A funnel should be used when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on people or the machine.
9. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully.
10. If any fuel is spilled on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
11. If any fuel is spilled on clothes they must be changed straight away.
12. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move the fuel to a safe, cool place.

### STARTING THE ENGINE

1. Different machines may have slightly different starting procedures; use these guidelines in conjunction with any instructions from the hire company or labels on the machine.
2. It is good practice to start the machine in blower mode, this prevents the collection bag being inflated until the operator is ready.
3. Most machines should be set on a firm level surface to start, either on the ground or on a sturdy bench; ensure that there is no debris that could be sucked into and through the machine as it starts up.
4. Check that the machine and machine controls are set correctly.
5. If starting the machine from cold, adjust the choke control to the coldstart position; if starting a machine that is still warm from use, the choke control can be set to the 'off' position.
6. If the machine has a fuel primer bulb, depress it 5 to 7 times to draw fuel into the carburettor.
7. Make sure that the machine is firmly held so that it will not move when the starter is pulled.
8. The starter handle should be pulled slowly until the starter has engaged with the engine, then it should be pulled quickly and strongly. It should not be pulled too far, or it may break.
9. The cord should be guided back into place so that it recoils correctly.

### VACUUM

1. Do not attempt to vacuum up liquids or wet materials, the water will clog up the impeller and damage the machine.
2. To empty the collection bag, stop the engine and wait for it to stop completely, and then remove the spark plug lead to prevent accidental restart. Empty the bag completely and shake it vigorously to remove dust which would otherwise reduce the suction efficiency. Ensure the bag is fully closed before replacing.
3. Do not attempt to empty the bag while the machine is running.

### BLOWER

1. Do not point at, or touch anyone with the blower nozzle.
2. Do not blow debris away from your area/property and on to someone else's, blow it into piles, put it in containers and dispose of it properly.
3. The vacuum collection bag is not needed when using the machine as a blower.

### GENERAL

1. The operator is responsible for the safety and security of the equipment; it should be stored securely especially overnight.
2. If the equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.
3. Please keep this leaflet until the work has been finished. It may also be required for future reference.

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