



# Using the Posthole Borer

1. Make sure you understand who will be giving instructions and what the signals will be.
2. Wear your protective equipment, including boots and gloves.
3. Plan your working positions and the route you will take around the holes to be dug. Clear the ground of building debris, such as bricks, wire or timber offcuts.
4. Once the stihl posthole borer has been started and the auger fitted, you can lift it together into position. Check that you have a secure grip and footing before you start work.
5. Always hold the machine securely with both hands on the handgrips and be prepared for any unexpected increase in turning force if the auger meets an obstruction.
6. As soon as the guide tip of the auger has broken the soil surface, use full throttle to continue drilling. Stay alert and always be ready to stop the engine straightaway if you feel the posthole borer start to jam. If you don't, the body of the machine will spin around and you may lose control.
8. If the machine starts to labour and slow down do not force it so hard. Lift the machine with the auger, turning to allow soil, clay and stones to be freed from the hole. Steady drilling, keeping the auger speed up, is more effective than aggressive pressure.
9. If you think the auger is becoming blunt, do not force the machine. Contact the hire company to reset the cutting edge.
10. If the auger jams in the ground, stop the engine straightaway. Turn the gear-locking lever to the right to lock the rotation gear. Now turn the entire machine anti-clockwise to screw the auger out of the ground. Disengage the gear-locking lever by turning it to the left as soon as the auger is free.
11. If the force required to free the jammed auger is excessive, the gear-lock device will disengage. If this happens turn the tensioning ring clockwise 90 degrees to release the auger from the machine. Put the machine down and free the auger by digging it out, taking care not to damage the auger.
12. Remember to check the gear-locking lever is unlocked before starting the engine.
13. When you want to move on to the next hole, carry the machine between you, with the engine idling.
14. Take care not to trip on the soil from the hole you have just dug or other obstacles.
15. Watch out for signs that vibration from the work may be affecting your hands. If your fingers start to tingle or feel numb, take a short break from cutting work. Exercise your fingers to encourage blood circulation.
16. To help prevent vibration affecting your hands, operate the machine for shorter periods. Keep your hands warm – wearing gloves may help to do this.
17. If someone approaches you, stop work and let the machine idle until they are clear.
18. Stop the engine if you need to make any adjustments or clear debris tangled in the auger.
19. Stop the engine if leaving the machine unattended.
20. If the stihl posthole borer does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

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



Hire Association Europe  
2450 Regents Court  
The Crescent  
Birmingham Business Park  
Solithull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600  
44 (0) 121 333 4109  
Fax: mail@hae.org.uk  
Email: www.hae.org.uk  
website:

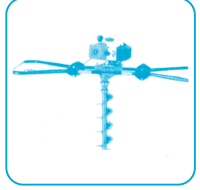
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# Stihl Posthole Borer

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 this entire leaflet BEFORE using the Stihl Posthole Borer

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. Petrol mixture is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
3. This Stihl posthole borer is designed for use by two able bodied adults to drill holes in soil or clay using the appropriate attachments.
4. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: Safety boots; Gloves; Ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 102 dB(A).
5. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
6. This machine is designed for operation by two able bodied adults. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.



## WORK AREA

1. Do not use this machine where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury from breathing toxic fumes, never run the posthole borer indoors or in poorly ventilated locations. Ensure that you have proper ventilation where working in other confined areas.
3. Make sure the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
4. Warn other people to keep away from your working area: put up warning signs or barriers.
5. Check that there are no buried electric cables, gas or water pipes, or underground obstructions where you are going to bore each hole.
6. If you plan to leave the holes open for more than a very short while, you should either cover each one with substantial boarding or use some similar method of preventing anyone stepping into a hole.



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Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600  
44 (0) 121 333 4109  
Fax: mail@hae.org.uk  
Email: www.hae.org.uk  
website:

Hire Association Europe  
2450 Regents Court  
The Crescent  
Birmingham Business Park  
Solithull B37 7YE



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1. Lay the machine on the ground, resting on the holding frame and the tip of the auger, with the engine controls and the throttle lever in the OFF (forward) position. Only set the choke control is in the OFF (forward) position. If the engine has run but is still cold, the choke control should also be in the OFF (rear) if the engine has not yet run at all.
  2. Hold the throttle lever at about half throttle position.
  3. Hold the machine down firmly with one hand. Do not stand or kneel on the holding frame or engine housing.
  4. At half throttle, be prepared for the auger spindle to rotate when the engine starts.
  5. With your other hand, pull out the starter handle slowly until you can feel that the starter has engaged with the engine. Don't then pull it quickly and strongly.
  6. Guide the cord back so that it recoils correctly.
  7. With the engine running close the throttle, the engine will idle and the auger spindle should not be turning. Set the choke control to OFF.
  8. If the engine did not start, check the controls, and pull the starter cord again.
- STARTING**
1. Do not fit an auger until you are ready to start work.
  2. Check that the auger spindle is squarely located into the spindle drive aperture.
  3. Lock it in place by turning the tensioning ring anticlockwise until it stops. This will be one-quarter turn.
  4. Extensions should be added only when the auger has penetrated into the ground as far as you can manage.
  5. Release the tensioning ring and lift the borer clear of the auger.
  6. Locate an extension onto the auger spindle and lock it into place.
  7. Now locate the borer on to the top of the extension and lock it with the tensioning ring.
  8. Do not try to start a fresh hole with extensions already attached.
  9. When the required depth is reached, lift the borer to expose the connection between each section. Remove the borer, then unlock and remove the extension, reconnect the borer and the ground.
  10. Remember the auger should be rotating when boring or lifting. The engine should be idling and the auger NOT rotating when you add or remove extensions.
  11. The maximum depth this machine can safely drill to is approximately 3 metres (10 feet).
  12. If you need a different diameter auger, contact the hire company.
- FITTING AUGERS OR EXTENSIONS**
1. Do not fit an auger until you are ready to start work.
  2. Check that the auger spindle is squarely located into the spindle drive aperture.
  3. Lock it in place by turning the tensioning ring anticlockwise until it stops. This will be one-quarter turn.
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  7. Now locate the borer on to the top of the extension and lock it with the tensioning ring.
  8. Do not try to start a fresh hole with extensions already attached.
  9. When the required depth is reached, lift the borer to expose the connection between each section. Remove the borer, then unlock and remove the extension, reconnect the borer and the ground.
  10. Remember the auger should be rotating when boring or lifting. The engine should be idling and the auger NOT rotating when you add or remove extensions.
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  12. If you need a different diameter auger, contact the hire company.
- STOPPING THE ENGINE**
1. Close the throttle and switch the ignition switch to STOP.
  2. In cold weather, you may need to let the engine warm up by gently opening the throttle, before starting work.
  3. In warm weather or if the engine is hot, start the engine with the choke in the OFF (forward) position.



# Before Starting Work...

1. This machine can only be operated by two able bodied adults working together. You should agree beforehand which person will give instructions, control the work, and also operate the machine controls.
  2. Both operators will have both hands on the posthole borer, and the noise will make spoken communication difficult.
  3. You should therefore agree before starting work how signals will be given, and what the pattern of work will be.
  4. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn by both persons when using this machine. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
  5. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 102 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level.
  6. You should wear gloves to protect your hands while working with the machine, especially when handling the auger.
  7. You must wear safety boots when working with this machine.
  8. Make sure that you have no loose or flapping clothing that could get caught in the posthole borer.
  9. Anybody else who is working near to you will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
  10. Vibration from working with this machine for long periods can be hazardous. Warm your hands up before you start work, and wear gloves to keep your hands warm while you are working.
  11. Check your machine, including the fuel tank, holding frame and auger. If anything is found damaged, do not use the posthole borer – contact the hire company.
  12. Fit the appropriate auger for the holes times it should be unlocked.
- CONTROLS**
1. Check your machine to find the controls before you try to start it.
  2. The throttle lever is on the handlebar, and the choke control should only be used when first attempting to start an engine from cold.
  3. Ring on the action of the tensioning spindle just above the aperture for the auger. When the auger is pushed home, turn this tensioning ring 90 degrees clockwise to unlock it.
  4. The gear-locking lever is located on the underside of the engine and opposite to the starter handle. Turn to the right to lock the rotation gear and turn it back to the left to unlock it. Only use this when freeing a jammed auger. At all other times it should be unlocked.
  5. Switch to the position marked STOP.
  6. The ignition stop switch has two positions. Under normal running, it is at the position marked START or RUN.
  7. Hold the throttle lever at about half throttle position.
  8. Hold the machine down firmly with one hand. Do not stand or kneel on the holding frame or engine housing.
  9. At half throttle, be prepared for the auger spindle to rotate when the engine starts.
  10. With your other hand, pull out the starter handle slowly until you can feel that the starter has engaged with the engine. Don't then pull it quickly and strongly.
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