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2004 Safety Guidance

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# 4 Stroke Petrol Engine

**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 petrol engine

1. Plan work and think ahead to ensure work will always be carried out safely.
2. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
3. Use the equipment only for the purpose for which is was designed.
4. 4 stroke petrol engines are designed to supply a self-contained reliable source of power to a variety of mobile, static and hand-held tools and equipment.
5. The action of this equipment and its engine can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
6. If you have not used petrol-engined equipment before, familiarize yourself with how the machine and its engine works before staring on the main task.
7. Various items of personal protective equipment will require to be worn, check the safety instruction leaflet issued for the equipment hired for the personal protective equipment necessary.
8. The equipment must not be used by minors or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
9. The equipment is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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## Before Starting Work...

### WORK AREA

1. Do not use this equipment where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. Using this equipment indoors or in confined spaces could cause **fatal** carbon monoxide poisoning. **Never** use it in domestic premises and only use it in other indoor situations if its suitability and the ventilation required has been **fully** assessed. Mechanical extraction ventilation will almost always be required.
3. Ensure the area is clear and safe and there is no-one close by who could cause distraction.
4. Protect other people from the noise and possible injury. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around the work area.

### OPERATORS

1. The relevant items of personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn pertaining to the type of machine being used and the environment being worked in. Particular jobs or environments may require a high level of protection.

### ENGINE

1. Check the engine and equipment. If anything is found to be damaged, do not use – contact the hire company.
2. Check the equipment is in a safe ready-to-work position before starting the engine.
3. Find out how to switch the engine off, before starting the equipment know how to stop it.

### REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
3. If possible, move the machine away from the work area.
4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the petrol tank.
5. Use a funnel and clean petrol when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
6. Wipe any petrol off the machine. Dispose of petrol soaked cloth carefully.
7. If any fuel is spilt on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
8. If any fuel is spilt on clothes, change them immediately.
9. Put all petrol caps back on properly and move the petrol can to a safe, cool place.

### STARTING THE ENGINE

1. Ensure the engine and machine controls are set correctly.
2. Ensure the machine is held firmly so it does not move when the starter is pulled.
3. Pull the starter handle slowly until the starter has engaged with the engine, then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it too far or it may break.
4. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.

### USING THE ENGINE

1. Wear personal protective equipment.
2. Allow the engine to reach its operating temperature, especially in cold weather, before starting work.
3. If the engine starts to labour and slow down, do not work it so hard. Do not overload the engine.
4. Stop the engine and close petrol taps if leaving the machine unattended.
5. The engine and exhaust system will get hot and remain hot for some time after stopping the machine. Do not touch or allow anything close to the exhaust system that burns.
6. If the engine does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

**Please keep this leaflet in a safe place. It may be required for future use.**

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

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