For guidance on managing construction health risks go to
www.hse.gov.uk/construction

Redistributed under licence from HAE by Banner Plant Limited. Licence expires on 31/05/2025

0114 Safety Guidance
110/230V v:032017

Banner Plant
PART OF HENRY BOOT

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.
9. A personal first-aid kit should be available.
10. This machine must not be used by young persons, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
11. 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.
12. Some poker vibrators are heavy machines, get help if you have to unload it from your vehicle. Do not lift beyond your own capabilities.

Every effort has been made by HAE/EHA to ensure that the information given in this document and supporting material is accurate and not misleading. HAE/EHA cannot accept responsibility for any loss or liability perceived to have arisen from the use of any such document/material. Only Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments have the force of law and only the courts can authoritatively interpret the law.

HIRE ASSOCIATION EUROPE
Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE
Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

Any unauthorised reproduction – manually or electronically – is STRICTLY prohibited
©Copyright Hire Association Europe April 2011

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.

v:032017

HIRE ASSOCIATION EUROPE
Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE
Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

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

Before Starting Work...

BEFORE STARTING WORK
CEMENT MIXES AND CONTACT DERMATITIS

1. Wet cement mix is a substance that can cause contact dermatitis.
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. Wash cement or plaster mixes from skin immediately. Thoroughly rinse out eyes and seek medical advice immediately.
4. Mild dermatitis will heal providing there is no further contact. If the rash persists seek medical advice. Learn more about contact dermatitis – visit www.bcds.org.uk
5. Gloves, long sleeves and full trousers must be worn to prevent the mixes coming into contact with bare skin

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. Make sure that the work area is clear and safe and that no-one is close by and could cause distractions.
3. Protect other people from the noise and wet cement. Warn others to keep away, set up an exclusion zone around the area where the poker vibrator is being used with physical barriers, barrier tape and signs. Keep children and animals away when using this equipment.
4. Work should stop immediately should anyone, other than those directly assisting with the work, enter the exclusion zone.
5. Clear the area of trip hazards such as rubble, rubbish etc.
6. 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.

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 flapping clothing that could get caught in the machinery.
2. Goggles must be worn when working with this machine.
3. This 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 mixes coming into contact with bare skin.
7. Anybody who is working close by will also need to 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. Check that the plug on the machine matches the supply. Do not try to force connections or improvise them.
3. Machines with a cylindrical yellow industrial plug fitted are designed to run off an 110V supply. The hire company will have provided a portable transformer if the machine needs to be powered from a normal mains 230V supply. If a portable transformer has been supplied, take care not to injure yourself when moving it about - it may be heavier than you think. Machines designed to run directly from 230V mains will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug, which must be connected through a residual-current device (RCD).
4. Check on how the on/off switch operates - before switching the vibrating poker on, locate the stop control. Make sure that the vibrating poker is switched off before plugging it into the supply.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

The machine will only operate on one voltage: it will be 110v or 230v.

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. Read the instructions below for your machine.

110 VOLT MACHINES (YELLOW PLUG)

1. If a portable transformer requires to be used, plug the transformer directly into the 230 volt socket. Do not use any 230v extension cables.
2. If an extension cable is required, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company has not given any special instructions, a suitably rated heavy duty 110v extension cable should be used, not longer than 50 metres (160 feet). An extension cable must only be used between the transformer and the machine.
3. Lay the extension cable 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.
4. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

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