For guidance on managing construction health risks go to
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Reversible Diesel Plate Compactor

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 Reversible Diesel Plate Compactor

1. Plan work and think ahead to ensure work will always be carried out safely.
2. Diesel fuel is highly flammable. Take care not cause a fire or explosion.
3. The vibration from these machines may cause discomfort after prolonged use. Check the label on the machine or ask the hire company.
4. If using this compactor on the public highway it may need to be HAUC compliant; check with the hire company.
5. This reversible compactor is designed to compact crushed hardcore, backfill, asphalt and other materials on level surfaces or gentle slopes.
6. This place compactor is heavy, it can cause injury or damage if it is not handled at all time in a careful and controlled way.
7. If you have not used a reversible plate compactor before, receive instruction or guidance before using it. Star work in a safe area until familiar with its use.
8. The following items of PPE (personal protective equipment) are the minimum required: Goggles, Dust Mask -minimum of FFP3 protection, Ear Muffs or plugs giving protection of 85 dB(A) at the ear; Safety Boots and Gloves.
9. This machine must not be used by monors or by anyone under the influence of durgs or alcohol.
10. The plate compactor is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either a temporary of permanent disability should seek expert medical advice before using the machine.

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OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are the minimum that should be worn whenever using the plate compactor. Particular jobs or environment may require a higher level of protection.
2. The equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 85 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum when operating the skip loader for long periods.
3. Goggles should always be worn when working with the machine.
4. An appropriate dust mask with a minimum of FFP3 must be worn when compacting material that causes dust.
5. Safety Boots must be worn when working with the plate compactor.
6. Site regulations may require the wearing of a safety helmet.
7. Anyone who is working closeby will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.

PLATE COMPACTOR

1. This is a heavy machine. Ask for assistance when lifting the plate compactor off a transport vehicle and when moving it into position. Take care.
2. Check the machine, engine and all equipment. Do not use anything found to be damaged - contact the hire company.
3. Always grip the plate compactor correctly with two hands while working.
4. Vibration from using this plate compactor can be hazardous. Warm hands before starting work, and wear gloves to keep hands warm while working.
5. Ensure you understand all of the controls. Before starting the machine, know how to stop it.

ACCESSORIES

1. Some or all of the accessories may be supplied as standard with the machine.
2. When compacting aphalt or tarmac, us a water spray to prevent the surface sticking to the plate.
3. Some surfaces, like paving blocks, need a rubber mat fixed to the plate to protect the final surface. Check with the hire company.

WORK AREA

1. Do not use the machine 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 no-one is closeby who could cause distraction.
4. Protect otherjr people from the noise, debris and dust. Warn others to keep away, erect barriers around the work area.
5. The compacting action to this machine may damage underground pipes, cables or other services laid just beneath the surface.

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Using the Reversible Diesel Plate Compactor

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders and safety boots.
2. The centrifugal clutch on reversible compactors stops the plate vibrating while the engine is idling. The throttle should be set to maximum when working.
3. Always grip the plate compactor correctly with two hand while working.
4. Watch for signs that vibration may be affecting hands. If fingers start to tingle or feel numb, take a short break from using the machine. Exercise fingers to encourage blood circulation.
5. To help prevent vibration affecting hands, operate the machine for shorter periods. Keep hands warm - wearing gloves may help do this. Do not operate the compactor for more than the recommended daily time.
6. Always keep hands, feet and clothing away from moving parts of the compactor.
7. This machine will move forward or backwards and can be manoeuvered easily while the plate is vibrating. Be careful not to strain yourself by trying to move it; get assistance or use appropriate lifting equipment.
8. When reversing take care not to: reverse over feet, trip over while walking backwards or trap yourself in a corner.
9. Some reversible plate compactors have a safety feature if the operator loses control and releases the handle when being used in reverse. The handle will swing up vertical and the compactor will change into forward motion, allowing the operator to recover control.
10. Do not try to force the compactor to move faster, allow it to travel at its own speed forward or reverse; this will vary depending on the surface being compacted.
11. If the surface to be compacted is sloping, take great care and only work up and down the slop and never across it.
12. If necessary attach a suitable piece of rope to a low point on the compactor chassis to enable an assistant to take part of the compactor's weight.
13. When the compactor is not being operated, stop the engine and turn off the fuel valve.
14. If the compactor has tranpsort wheels ensure they are fixed properly to move the machine across the site.
15. If the compactor has to be left unattended for long periods, overnight for example, ensure it is safe from vandalism or theft.
16. If the equipment 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

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Before Starting Work...

REFUELLING

1. No smoking.
2. Stop the engine and allow to 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 fuel tank.
5. Use a funnel and clean diesel when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of the fuel soaked cloth carefully.
7. If any fuel is spilt on the ground, mop it up or cover it with soil.
8. If any fuel is spilt on clothes, change them immediately.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly and move the fuel can to a safe, cool place.

STARTING THE ENGINE

If the hire company has give specific starting instructions - follow them. If not follow these general guidelines.

1. The equipment should be on a level surface.
2. Check the oil level has not fallen too low. This may automatically prevent the engine running.
3. Check the throttle is set to tick over and the fuel valve is turned on.
4. The compactor will have either an electric start or a recoil start. Read the instructions below for the machine.

Electric Start

1. Different machines will have different starting switches - may be a key operated switch or separate buttons.
2. The machine may have a cold start device. This may be the first position of the switch, or a separate button.
3. If the engine is cold, operate the cold start device for twenty seconds before starting, then operate the start control.
4. Do not have the throttle fully open when starting, or the centrifugal clutch will cause the machine to move as the engine fires.
5. If the equipment fails to start after a few seconds look to see if there is any smoke coming from the exhaust. If there is, try repeating the start procedure but operate the cold start for a little longer.
6. If the engine is warm, there is no need to use the cold start device. The engine can be started straight away.
7. Stop the engine by operating the STOP control.

Recoil Start

1. Ensure that the machine is held firmly so it will not move when the starter is pulled.
2. Pull the starter handle slowly until you can feel the starter has engaged with the engine, then pull it quickly and strongly. Do not pull too far, or it may break.
3. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
4. Stop the engine by operating the STOP control.