Brush Cutter - Safety Guide – Read before Operating Equipment

WARNING - Some Hire Equipment can cause Death or Serious Injury if used or operated incorrectly.

Read and understand these instructions carefully before using this equipment. Know the controls and how to stop the unit quickly in an emergency. Use common sense and lots of it. Your safety and those around you is your responsibility.

WARNING – Your own Risk Assessment should be carried out before commencing any work. Five steps to basic risk assessment.
1 Identify the hazards
2 Decide who might be harmed and how
3 Evaluate the risks and decide on precaution
4 Record your findings and implement them
5 Review your assessment and update if necessary.

For more information or Risk Assessments on specific equipment visit our web site www.allequipmenthire.com.au

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Always wear correct and appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the job at hand such as but not limited to:
- Safety glasses or goggles.
- Ear muffs or ear plugs.
- Dust mask or respirator.
- Protective gloves.
- Close fitting protective clothing.
- Hard hat / hairnet.
- Protective or safety boots and footwear.
- Weld mask.
- Harnesses.

Be alert and cautious when wearing hearing protection as your ability to hear warnings (shouts, alarms etc.) is restricted.

You must do your own risk assessment with regard to the correct PPE to wear.

General Safety Guide

- Do your own risk assessment for all jobs to be undertaken.
- Seek advice from your Doctor if you suspect you have any medical condition that may be affected by manual work or the operation of equipment.
- Do not use machinery if you feel tired or under the influence of alcohol, drugs or medication. Do take regular rest breaks.
- Do not operate equipment that you are not licensed, unfamiliar with or are not competent to operate. Never let untrained people use the equipment.
- Ensure you know how to operate it safely, and be able to shut it down correctly in an emergency or if you experience unexpected movement.
- Check controls for proper response. Shut down the machine if a fault is detected. Do not try to repair faulty equipment.
- Check the condition of the machine at the start and end of each day or shift and report any damage or defects. Do not operate if faulty.
- Operate in clear open spaces were possible and if not possible be conscious of your surroundings and consider having an observer stand by.
- You should never operate high risk equipment without someone observing you at all times.
- Be mindful that using some equipment may change the structural strength of your surroundings. (e.g. demolition, excavation, trenches, wall removal)
- Ensure clear access and egress to where you are working. Always keep the work area well lit and hazard free. A tidy work area is a safe area.
- Always have secure footing and balance and firm two handed grip. Never work on damp, wet or slippery surfaces. Use harnesses where applicable.
- Always run and operate machines and equipment on flat, level and solid ground.
- Do not overreach. Hand tools should not be used above shoulder height. Keep all controls, handles and levers clean, dry and free from oil & fuel etc.
- Prolonged use of hand operated equipment exposes the user to vibrations. Stop using the tool if they feel numbness or inability to feel temperatures.
- Always keep guards in place and in working order. Do not continue to use faulty or damaged equipment. Keep hands away from moving parts.
- Do not wear loose clothing, gloves, neckties, rings, bracelets or other jewellery which may get caught in the moving parts. Use hair nets.
- Never permit children, other people or animals to loiter near the work area. Never allow children to operate any machine even under supervision.
- Do not fool around while operating equipment; always keep the machine under control. Never leave a machine running unattended.
- Never force a tool, blade or attachment to do a job for which it was not designed. When using attachments, ensure they are fitted correctly and practice the operation before beginning work. Isolate power source before changing accessories, attachments, blades, drill bits or parts.
- Do not rush or take risks when operating equipment. Never force a machine, let the machine do the job.
- Select the correct equipment for the job you are undertaking. Always use the right tools. Keep hands, body away from pinch areas & moving parts.
- Disconnect spark plug lead on petrol driven equipment before changing blades or attempting any servicing.
- Dial before you dig. Always check the location of electricity, gas, telephone, water and other services before cutting, excavating or demolition work.
- Do not wipe plastic parts with solvents, such as petrol, thinner, alcohol or ammonia, as they could melt or crack, rendering the machine unsafe.

Safety Guide for this Equipment

- Your own Risk Assessment should be carried out before commencing any work.
- This Brush cutter depending on the cutting tool fitted is designed for cutting grass, wild growth, shrubs, scrub, bushes, small diameter trees and similar material. It should not be used for any other purpose.
- Always use correct Personal Safety equipment (you must do your own risk assessment with regard to the correct PPE to wear).
- Use only attachments supplied. Never modify attachments or this machine in any way.
- Exposure to vibration or repetitive work over a prolonged period may be harmful to hands and arms. Take plenty of breaks.
- Ensure adequate ventilation of the work area to avoid dust accumulation.
- Maintain good balance and good footing at all times and avoid operating on uneven, slippery or wet ground.
- Do not use on a ladder or any other insecure support or structure.
- Hold the Machine firmly with both hands and maintain a secure grip.
- Prior to using this brush cutter the work area must be clear of all hazardous obstructions. Pick up any glass, rope, stones, steel, sticks, wire etc.
- The deflector may not protect the operator from all foreign objects (stones, glass wire etc.) thrown by the rotating attachments. Thrown objects may also ricochet and strike the operator. Never operate with out the deflector in place.
- Keep children, pets and other people well away from where you are working (at least 15m). Particularly due to flying objects.

This is a Guide only. Use your own judgment. Do not use or operate this equipment if you are unsure or in doubt of its capabilities, designed use, or its proper operation. For further information, contact All Equipment Hire and ask for more advice or instruction with regard, to the safe operation of this equipment. If the equipment is not operating correctly, or not doing the job you expected. Do not continue. Do not attempt repairs. Please telephone to let us know and return it to the branch for exchange or repair.

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Maintain this distance (15m) to parked cars, windows and other property etc to avoid damage.
Be prepped for kick out when using metal cutting blades. Kick out can occur when the blade comes in contact with a solid object like a tree trunk, branch, stump, rock or similar. The machine is thrown to the right or to the rear.
Cutting heads can ring bark or cutoff small trees and shrubs.
Never leave machine running when not in use or leaving unattended.

Asbestos Safety
- If your house was built or renovated before the mid to late 1980s, it may contain Asbestos. Your roof, garage, kitchen, bathroom, laundry or fences may contain Asbestos.
- Never attempt to remove, cut, drill etc any asbestos product unless you are properly trained and certified to do so. Ignoring this warning you risk not only your health but also others around you. Fines may apply. Contact Government or professional organizations for the safe removal and disposal of these materials. If you are unsure get advice before proceeding. www.health.sa.gov.au Look for “Asbestos Guide”

Dust Control
- Some dust created by power tools when drilling, grinding, sanding, sawing and other construction activities can contain chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproduction harm.
- Some examples are but not limited too; Lead from lead based paints, Crystalline Silica from brick, cement and other masonry products and Arsenic and Chromium from chemically treated timber.
- To reduce your exposure, work in well ventilated area and work with approved safety equipment such as dust masks and respirators.

Fuel Safety
- Do not smoke or bring any fire, flame or spark near flammable liquid or fuel, whilst re-fuelling or operating the machine. Vapors are highly flammable.
- Always shut off the engine and allow it to cool before re-fuelling. Relieve fuel tank pressure by loosening the fuel cap slowly. Select a clear open area for fuelling and move fuel drums at least 3m from fuelling spot before starting engine. Ensure fuel does not come in contact with hot exhaust or parts.
- Ensure correct fuel is used i.e. Diesel, Unled or Two Stroke. Wipe up any spilled fuel immediately and check for leakage.
- If fuel gets spilled on clothes it is very important to change clothes immediately. Fuel may also cause skin aggravation.
- Always ensure the fuel cap is secured tightly. Check for fuel leakage while re-fuelling and during operation. If a fuel leak is suspected, do not start or run the engine until the leak is fixed and spilled fuel has been wiped away.
- Never operate engine in enclosed area. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and tasteless poison. Operating engine driven machines in enclosed areas such as; inside buildings, pits, shafts, silos, tanks, tunnels, vats etc can cause death. Operate in well vented areas only.

Starting Safety – Two Stroke Machine
- Only use 2 stroke fuel supplied. Do not drop start. Start with the machine on firm ground. Hold machine firmly.
- Never attempt to start when the cutting wheel, blades or other moving parts are in contact with anything.
- Turn off/on switch on. Turn choke on. Push fuel primer bubble, if fitted.
- Pull rope slowly till you feel resistance (compression). Hold machine firmly while pulling the starter rope swiftly with your other hand. Short sharp pulls are required. Avoid pulling to end of starter rope as this could cause an injury and damage the machine to the point you will not be able to restart it. Be prepared for backfire. Do not allow the starter grip to snap back into position. Guide starter rope slowly back into position.
- As soon as you hear the machine fire (It may not have started) turn the choke off and pull again till it runs. Let it warm up before working. Don’t use the choke if the machine has recently been running and is warm.
- Turn off with off/on switch. Not with the choke.

Handling and Transport
- Ensure all equipment and loads are securely restrained and are unable to become dislodged, move or fall when transporting.
- Always transport equipment in an upright position. Never transport equipment unrestrained. This equipment is heavy.
- Use correct lifting techniques. Bend knees, hold load close to body, back straight. Only lift within your own limits. Get help or use lifting equipment.

Notes

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