

## Towable Wood Chipper

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 you use the Towable Wood Chipper

- Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
- It is important to read all of this leaflet and any others provided before you use this Wood Chipper.
- TAKE CARE!** This chipper is self feeding; it will pull arms and legs through to the cutting knives with great force. Keep well clear.
- Diesel fuel is flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
- Because operator contact with this machine is minimal, there is no vibration hazard. Do not lean against or hold onto the machine for long periods.
- This Wood Chipper is designed to reduce small branches, twigs, brushwood and similar materials to small chips, ready for disposal, composting, mulching, or footpath covering. It must not be used for any other purpose.
- The action of this Wood Chipper can cause injury or damage if it is not used in a careful and controlled way.
- You should not use this Wood Chipper unless you are authorized, and have had previous experience, or you have had a course of instruction from a responsible body. (see HSE leaflet AP4G 806).
- You must have the following items of personal protective equipment: safety helmet, safety glasses, safety boots, EN166 (1997) hearing protection (ear muffs or plugs) complying with EN352; safety boots to EN 345-1; gloves; non-slag outer clothing; Dust mask – a minimum of EN149 FFP3(s) protection may also be appropriate in certain circumstances.
- A personal first-aid kit including a large wound dressing should be available.
- This Wood Chipper is designed for operation by able bodied adults. Anyone with either a temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.



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For guidance on managing construction health risks go to [www.hse.gov.uk/construction](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction)

## Using the Towable Wood Chipper

- Check the machine each time before you use it.
- Wear your protective equipment. Ensure nothing can get caught on the branches as you operate the chipper.
- Check your exclusion zone is clear. Stop work and stop the machine if the exclusion zone is breached.
- Set the engine speed (and set the stress control if fitted), to obtain optimum performance.
- Check that material to be chipped is free from stones, metal and foreign objects.
- Operate the chipper from one side of the infeed rollers so that you can avoid being struck by the chipper body (including the feed control) by activating the feed control by using parts of your body other than the hands (e.g. elbow, hip, torso etc.). Jam, disable or remove the feed control bar or any safety device on the machine.
- Never reach into the infeed chute until the infeed rollers have stopped completely. Never do any adjustments, maintenance, or repairs to the machine components before all the machine components are at a complete standstill.
- Let material go as soon as it is engaged in the infeed rollers or chipping components. Do not attempt to clear the infeed rollers or chipping components by hand. Do not touch the material being produced to be chipped.

### Please store this leaflet safely. It may be required for further information



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## TOWING THE CHIPPER

- Check the Wood Chipper drawbar and security hitch carefully for damage and ensure the tow bar is correctly fitted.
- Make sure the tow bar is correctly fitted to the chipper. The tow bar should be fitted to a flat tyre as it will be most stable.
- Make sure that the towing vehicle is capable of safely towing the weight of the Wood Chipper, and that the vehicle towing hitch is in good condition, and compatible with the one fitted to the Chipper.
- If the coupling is of the pin and eye type, the pin must have a suitable R-clip or over-centre clip to prevent it jumping out.
- Fit any security chain or cable, making sure that there is adequate length free to allow for some movement over rough ground. The tow bar should be sufficiently strong to tow the weight of the chipper.
- Connect any electric cable for warning lights and signals - and check that they work at the rear of the Wood Chipper. If you are going onto the public road, make sure that the towing vehicle's registration number is properly displayed at the rear of the wood chipper.
- Make sure that the jockey wheel and jack will not drop during transport.

It is good practice to refill the fuel tank at the end of the day's shift, not at the start. This will help prevent condensation from building up in the fuel system.

### STARTING THE ENGINE

- If the hire company has given you specific starting instructions - follow them - if not follow these instructions
- Make sure that nobody is within the work area of the feed chute.
- Set the throttle control switch to Idle/start position.
- Ensure the feed control bar is pushed to the FEED OUT or STOP position.
- Insert the key in the ignition switch. Turn the key part way to engage the cold start device, hold it in that position for about twenty seconds, then turn fully to engage the starter.
- When the engine fires, release the key, which will return to its 'running' position.
- Pull the reset lever to release the feed control bar to its work position.
- moving it to its three positions - "FEED IN" (Feed rollers rotate inwards) - "STOP" (Feed rollers stop) - "FEED OUT" (Feed outwards).

### STOPPING THE ENGINE

- Push the feed control bar to the "STOP" position.
- Reset the throttle switch to "START/IDLE" position and allow the chipper disc to slow down.
- Turn the start key to "OFF" - wait for the chipper disc to stop, remove the key if appropriate.

### REFUELLING

- Stop the engine and let it cool down.
- If you have a designated fuel dispensing site follow the site instructions. Otherwise follow the instructions below.
- Move the Chipper to a safe place away from your work area, if possible.
- Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
- Use clean fuel when refuelling. If you don't have a fuel pump, use a funnel when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the vehicle.
- Wipe any fuel off the vehicle. Dispose of any fuel-soaked cloth carefully.
- If you spill any fuel on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
- If you spill any fuel on your clothes - change them straight away.
- Put all fuel cans back on properly and move your fuel can to a safe, cool place.

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## Before Starting Work...



### WOOD CHIPPER

- Check your machine thoroughly, including the engine and all equipment. If anything is damaged, do not use the chipper - contact your hire company immediately.
- Ensure guards for dangerous parts (e.g. belts, pulleys, shafts etc.) are secure and undamaged.
- Ensure protective devices, such as the infeed control bar (incorporating the stopping device), are working correctly. This Wood Chipper may be used whilst attached to the towing vehicle, or it can be used when detached from the vehicle.
- If the chipper is detached, apply the handbrake, lower the jack legs and the jockey wheel and, if necessary, check the wheels.
- Position the chipper in the safest place ensuring that operators do not have to stand on embankments/slopes or roadways when feeding material into the machine.
- Ensure the discharge chute is positioned to prevent chips being blown onto the highway during roadside operations or in any direction where they can affect colleagues, property, or members of the public.
- Adjust the infeed chute to at least 600mm from the ground. If detached from the machine, the adjustment is made by altering the height of the jockey wheel and support legs.
- Wood chippers are heavy machines, get help if you have to manoeuvre the machine into position, especially on sloping ground. Do not pull beyond your own capabilities.
- If used on any public road or highway this Wood Chipper and the towing vehicle must comply with road traffic regulations. In addition, the driver must have an appropriate driving licence.
- Ensure all operators near to highways have adequate signs with appropriate notices.
- Makes sure that you understand all of the controls including the control system for the infeed rollers and feed control bar so that the rollers can be stopped in an emergency, and how the separate reset control is activated by the operator when safe to resume work.
- Under the terms of hire, you are responsible for the safe custody of the wood chipper. You must also indemnify your hire company against any loss or unreasonable damage, such as vandalism. This is why to do this is to take out proper insurance.
- Some hire companies will offer insurance cover at an extra charge. As well as taking out insurance, you must always secure the vehicle yourself against theft or vandalism.
- Remove any ignition keys, lock the fuel cap and operate any other security device to prevent unauthorised use.
- You should be aware that if you cause damage to property belonging to a third party, or if you are involved in a road traffic accident, it is unlikely that normal insurance policies will give you any protection.
- If you are in any doubt about your insurance cover, check with your hire company or your insurer immediately.

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