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Using the Lawn Mower

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders and strong footwear.
2. If your mower has a grassbox, do not run it without the grassbox correctly fitted. Stop the engine before you empty the grassbox.
3. Always hold the mower handle firmly with both hands while working.
4. Keep your hands and feet clear of the blades at all times.
5. Do not let the blades rotate when moving over paving or hard ground, or when first positioning the mower to start work.
6. Do not tilt the mower to expose the blades when they are still rotating. You might accidentally put your foot into the danger area. The blades may also throw out stones and other debris.
7. While working, keep a lookout for any stones or other objects in your path. Stop the engine and clear them out of the way.
8. Stop work and stop the engine if someone approaches you.
9. If the mower starts to labour and slow down, raise the cutting height so you are removing less grass. Make a second pass later, with a deeper setting.
10. Stop the engine every time you empty the grassbox.
11. Stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug lead before making any adjustments other than height of cut.
12. Stop the engine before leaving the machine unattended.
13. If debris or rubbish gets tangled in the blades, stop the engine and disconnect the spark plug lead before clearing the blockage or working on the mower.
14. Clean the machine at the end of each day, and before you return it to the hire company. Make sure that there are no grass cuttings near the exhaust. Wear your gloves - the exhaust will be hot.
15. Let the exhaust and engine cool down before you put it into store.
16. If your 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 it until you finish work.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for future reference



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Self Propelled Lawn Mower

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 Lawn Mower

1. This leaflet gives instructions for self-propelled petrol lawn mowers. It is not to be used with ride-on mowers.
2. Petrol is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
3. This lawn mower is designed for cutting grass on flat and level surfaces. It should not be used on wet, thick or overgrown grass, or on steep slopes.
4. The action of this lawn mower can cause injury or damage if the equipment is not used in a careful and controlled way.
5. If you have not used a self-propelled lawn mower before, practise in the middle of your lawn until you are confident about using it.
6. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
7. You should have at least the following items of personal protective equipment. ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 96 dB(A); strong boots or shoes giving good foot protection; strong gloves.
8. This equipment must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
9. This lawn mower is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.



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- ### STARTING THE ENGINE
1. This section describes the starting procedure for most lawn mowers. Some lawn mowers have a blade brake that needs to be held in during starting and while the engine is running. Larger lawn mowers may have an electric starter motor. If the hire company has given you special instructions for your mower, follow them. Otherwise, follow the instructions given below.
 2. Check that there is no obstruction, including long grass, under the mower.
 3. Open the fuel valve by the fuel tank.
 4. Check that the throttle lever is in the START position.
 5. Hold the machine firmly with your left hand, so that it will not move when you pull the starting cord.
 6. With your right hand, pull out the starting cord handle slowly until you can feel that the starter has engaged with the engine, then pull it quickly and strongly. Don't pull it too far, or the cord may break.
 7. Guide the cord back into place so that it recoils correctly.
 8. If the engine did not start, check that there is sufficient petrol, and that the throttle lever is in the correct position. Pull the starting cord again.
 9. In cold weather, you may need to let the engine warm up by gently opening the throttle, before starting work.
- ### REFUELLING
1. No smoking.
 2. Stop the engine and let it cool down.
 3. Move the machine away from your work area. Spill petrol will kill grass.
 4. Clean the filler cap and the area around it to prevent dirt falling into the fuel tank.
 5. Use a funnel and clean petrol when refuelling. Do not spill any fuel on yourself or the machine.
 6. Wipe any fuel off the machine. Dispose of fuel soaked cloth carefully.

7. If you spill any fuel on the ground, wipe it up or cover it with soil.
8. If you spill any fuel on your clothes, change them straight away.
9. Put all fuel caps back on properly, and move your fuel can to a safe, cool place.



Before Starting Work...

- ### LAWN MOWER
1. Check your machine, engine, guards and grass box, and all equipment. If anything is found damaged, do not use the lawn mower - contact the hire company.
 2. Make sure that the guard over the grass outlet is securely fixed to the mower, but free to move when attaching and removing the grassbox.
 3. If you plan to cut long grass, set the cut high to start with. This will avoid damaging the grass and overloading the mower. You can then go back over the grass with a lower cut setting.
 4. Always hold the lawn mower correctly with both hands when cutting the grass. On some mowers, drive is not transmitted to the wheels until you squeeze the clutch lever in.
 5. On other mowers, drive is not transmitted to the wheels until you release the clutch lever. These models will need to wear strong shoes or protection for this level.
 6. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 96 dB(A) - wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection.
 7. You will need to wear strong shoes or boots giving good foot protection. You will need strong gloves to handle any rubbish or debris in the grass. Also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
 8. If the lawn mower gets out of control while working, do not fight to regain control. Release the control levers and the mower will immediately stop.
 9. On some mowers, the driving wheels can be engaged without having the blades rotating, to enable you to position the machine ready to start.
 10. Make sure you understand all of the controls. Before you start the lawn mower, you must know how to control it and stop it safely.
- ### OPERATORS
1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this lawn mower. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
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WORK AREA

1. Do not use this lawn mower 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 situations if its suitability is fully assessed. Mechanical extraction ventilation will almost always be required.
3. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
4. Protect other people from the noise and from injury. Keep other people at least 10metres (33 feet) away.
5. Do not use this mower on steep slopes. Contact the hire company if you need a machine to do this.
6. Make sure the area you are about to cut is free of large stones, pieces of wood, lengths of wire or anything else that may fly out or damage the machine. Wear your gloves while you do this.

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