Landscaping Power Equipment Safety



With safety in mind, remember these easy steps for operating outdoor power equipment.

Operate equipment carefully and follow recommended procedures.	**Always turn off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before attempting to unclog or work on outdoor power equipment. If leaving unattended, turn off engine and remove key.**
Dress properly for the job.	**Wear long pants, close-fitting clothes, sturdy shoes, and safety glasses. Don’t wear anything that could get caught in moving parts (loose jewelry or clothing. Be careful of long hair).**
Keep hands and feet away from moving parts.	**Never work on equipment while it is running. Never remove or tamper with safety devices or labels. They are provided to protect you and your family.**
Know how to operate your equipment.	**Read the operator’s manual before using any power equipment. Know where the controls are located and their function. Follow safety instructions.**
Clear the area before you start.	**Pick up anything that could be thrown by the operating equipment such as rocks, twigs, cans and toys.**

Handle gas carefully.	**Fill up before you start, while the engine is cold. Don’t spill when you fill. Store gas in an approved container in a cool, ventilated area. Never smoke around gasoline.**
Keep children and pets away from the mowing area.	**Never allow children to operate any outdoor power equipment. Never carry children, or anyone, as passengers on a riding mower.**

OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT SAFETY TIPS

Portable Power Equipment

- Clean or replace air filters and change spark plugs, if necessary.
- Check safety devices to ensure that they are attached and working.
- Refer to the operator’s manual for specific troubleshooting and parts maintenance recommendations.
- Disconnect spark plug wires before cleaning, making repairs, or conducting routine inspections.
- Regularly check that all nuts and bolts are tight.
- Check that engine cooling fans are clean before every operation.
- Clean all dirt and debris from the engine and equipment before operation.

Trimmers

- Regularly check that all nuts and bolts are tight.
- Clean or replace air filters and change spark plugs, if necessary.
- Check safety devices to ensure that they are attached and working.
- With spark plugs disconnected, remove and replace trimmer line.
- Always turn off the engine and disconnect the spark plug wire before attempting to unclog or work on outdoor power equipment. If leaving unattended, turn off engine and remove key.
- Wear long pants, close-fitting clothes, sturdy shoes, and safety glasses. Don’t wear anything that could get caught in moving parts (loose jewelry or clothing. Be careful of long hair).
- Never work on equipment while it is running. Never remove or tamper with safety devices or labels. They are provided to protect you and your family.
- Read the operator’s manual before using any power equipment. Know where the controls are located and their function. Follow safety instructions.
- Pick up anything that could be thrown by the operating equipment such as rocks, twigs, cans and toys.
- Fill up before you start, while the engine is cold. Don’t spill when you fill. Store gas in an approved container in a cool, ventilated area. Never smoke around gasoline.
- Never allow children to operate any outdoor power equipment. Never carry children, or anyone, as passengers on a riding mower.
- Disconnect the spark plug wire before cleaning, making repairs, or conducting routine inspections.

- **Chainsaws**
- Check the bar for excessive wear or bent rails and replace, if necessary.
- Check the throttle trigger, interlock system, and chain brake for proper functioning.
- Check safety devices to make sure that they are attached and working.
- Assure that the chain saw is sharp, properly tensioned and getting sufficient oil.
- With a brush or light air source, clean cooling fans on a flywheel, the cylinders fans, area outside the carburetor, and started housing.
- Have the carburetor checked and adjusted periodically by a properly trained person to assure that the saw is running at peak performance and without excessive heat.
- Check that the saw idles properly (the chain should not rotate at idle speed).
- Use a high-quality bar oil to lubricate the bar and chain.

Walk-Behind Rotary Tillers

- Clean or replace the air filter and the spark plugs, if necessary.
- Check safety devices to ensure that they are attached and working.
- With the spark plugs disconnected, sharpen blades and tines, in accordance with the operator’s manual.
- Disconnect the spark plug wire before cleaning the tiller, making repairs, or conducting routine inspections.
- Clean all dirt and debris from engine and tiller before operation.

Lawn Mowers

- Clean all dirt and debris from the engine and mower before operation.
- Clean or replace the air filter and spark plugs, if necessary.
- Check safety devices to ensure that they are attached and working.
- With the spark plugs disconnected, sharpen blades in accordance with operator’s manual.
- On electric mowers, make sure cords are not cut or frayed;
- on battery powered mowers make sure they are fully charged.
- Regularly check for wear and tightness of all belts, chain drives, nuts and bolts.
- Disconnect the spark plug wire before cleaning the mower, making repairs, or conducting routine inspections. (Unplug the power cord on electric mowers.)
- Check that engine cooling fans are clean before every operation.

Edgers

- Clean or replace the air filter and spark plugs, if necessary.
- Check safety devices to ensure that they are attached and working.
- With the spark plugs disconnected, remove and replace the trimmer line.
- Disconnect the spark plug wire before cleaning, making repairs, or conducting routine inspections.
- Check that the engine cooling fans are clear before every operation.
- Regularly check that all nuts and bolts are tight.
- Clean all dirt and debris from the engine and edger before operation.

Shredders & Grinders

- Clean or replace the air filter, if necessary. Clean or replace the spark plugs every year.
- Check safety devices to ensure that they are attached and working.
- Check wheels and make sure tires are inflated with the proper pressure.

- Always disconnect the spark plug wire before cleaning the shredder, making repairs, or conducting routine inspections.
- Check that the engine cooling fans are clean before every operation.
- Regularly check that all nuts and bolts are tight.
- Check cutting blades often and rotate/replace as necessary, according to the operator’s manual.
- Clean dirt and debris from the engine and shredder housing.
- Ensure the correct tension of the belt, according to the operator’s manual.

Lawn & Garden Tractors

- Check that the tires are inflated with proper pressure.
- Check safety devices to ensure that they are attached and working.
- Every year change engine oil, clean or replace the air filter, and change spark plug (s).
- Check electrical system for loose or dirty connections.
- Check mower deck for bolt tightness, belt wear, and blade sharpness.
- Disengage all power when leaving operator’s seat.