



Think Safety With Outdoor Power Equipment

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Respect The Power

Be Safe. Follow the operator's manual. Each tool performs a specific task like cutting, chopping, collecting or blowing. Only use the equipment for what it is designed to do. Carelessness may cause serious injury to the operator or anyone in the work area.

Eight Steps to Outdoor Power Safety

1. Know How to Operate Your Equipment.

- Read and understand the operator and safety manuals.
- Know the controls and how they work.
- Follow safety instructions.

2. Dress Properly for the Job

- Wear long pants and close-fitting clothes.
- Wear sturdy shoes.
- Don't wear things that could get caught in moving parts like loose jewelry or clothing; be careful of long hair.

3. Handle Gas Carefully

- Don't spill when you fill.
- Fill up before you start, when the engine is cold.
- Store gas in approved container in a cool, ventilated area.
- Never smoke around gas.

4. Clear the Area Before You Start

- Pick up rocks, twigs, toys --- anything that could be thrown by the equipment.

5. Keep Children & Pets Away from the Work Area

- Never give a child, or anyone, a ride.
- Children should be kept inside, away from the work area.

6. Operate Carefully & Follow Safety Procedures

- Turn off engine and disconnect spark plug wire when working on the equipment or attempting to unclog debris.
- If you leave the equipment, turn off the engine and remove key.
- Never allow children to operate any type of outdoor power equipment. Only allow responsible adults who are familiar with the instructions to operate equipment.

7. Keep Hands & Feet Away From Moving Parts

- Never work on equipment when it's running.
- Never remove or tamper with safety devices or labels.

8. Wear Hearing & Eye Protection

- ❑ Use special earmuffs or earplugs to protect your ears while allowing you to hear the sounds you need to hear.
- ❑ Always wear safety glasses or goggles.

Lawn Mowers

- ❑ Mow across a hill to avoid falls. Do not mow on a steep hill.
- ❑ Keep the mower flat on the ground. Never lift the mower.
- ❑ Shut off engine when adjusting mower height.
- ❑ If you hit something, stop the mower and turn it off. See if the mower is damaged before starting the machine.

Standard Safety Feature: Operator Presence Control (OPC) ensures that the blade comes to a complete stop within three seconds after the blade control is released.

Riding Mowers

- ❑ Riding mowers are one-person machines. Never carry passengers or tow children in carts or trailers while mowing.
- ❑ Always start the machine from the operator's seat.
- ❑ Mow up and down hills.
- ❑ Go slowly on hills and around corners to prevent tipping.
- ❑ Always look down and behind for people and objects before, and while, backing up.
- ❑ Do not allow a child to operate a riding mower.
- ❑ Avoid edges.

Standard Safety Feature: Operator Presence Control (OPC) automatically stops the engine and powered attachments when the operator leaves the seat.

Leaf Blowers

- ❑ Never point the blower nozzle at people or pets.
- ❑ Follow local ordinances about when to use a leaf blower. Do not use very early in the morning or very late in the day.
- ❑ Use the lowest possible throttle speed.

Edger / Trimmers

- ❑ Keep hands and feet away from rotating parts while engine is running.
- ❑ Stop the engine when crossing gravel or any place where thrown objects might be a hazard.
- ❑ Do not overspeed the engine.
- ❑ If you hit an object, stop the engine immediately. Turn it off and check for damage. Repair anything before restarting.

Chain Saws

- ❑ Make sure the saw chain is not touching anything before starting the engine.
- ❑ Do not operate a chain saw with one hand! You need to use two hands.
- ❑ Shut off the engine before setting the chain saw down.

Garden Tillers

- ❑ If you hit an object, stop the tiller immediately. Turn it off and check for damage. Repair anything before starting up.
- ❑ Keep hands and feet away from rotating parts while engine is running.
- ❑ Stop the engine when crossing gravel or any place where thrown objects might be a hazard.

Shredder / Grinders

- ❑ Do not put face, hands, feet or any part of your body or clothing near chute, hopper or discharge area.
- ❑ For clogs or jams, shut off the machine. Wait until all moving parts completely stop. Blades take time to stop after the engine is off. Disconnect the spark plug wire and check the hopper, chute, internal chamber and discharge area. **Only use a wooden stick to clear jammed material.**
- ❑ NEVER place hands in chute to unclog leaves or twigs.

Log Splitters

- ❑ Always split wood in the direction of the grain, never across.
- ❑ Keep hands away from the ram, the wedge and partially split logs.

Take Pride In Your Home Or Property

Create Beauty And Enhance the Environment!

Using outdoor power equipment saves time, creates beautiful landscapes, and enhances the value of the property. Attractive lawns, gardens, and properties are proud testaments of the City of Newton citizens and employees.

THINK SAFE BE SAFE!