

Log Splitter - 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 where 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.
- Select the correct equipment for the job you are undertaking. Always use the right tools. Keep hands and fingers away from pinch areas.
- Never permit children, other people or animals to loiter near the work area.
- 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 machine is designed to split timber logs. 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)
- Always run this machine flat and level. It should never be used on a slope. Working on an incline is dangerous and not recommended.
- Do not operate this log splitter on slippery, wet, muddy or icy surfaces. A safe footing is essential when operating this machine.
- This is a one person machine. Most accidents happen when more than one person is involved with the operation of this machine. The risk of operating while a helper still has hands or fingers in the way is high.
- Keep children, pets and other people at least 6m away from where you are working. Flying wood can be a hazard.
- Exercise care when operating unit. Be aware of your hand location at all times when operating.
- Never place hands or fingers between the log and the end plate or splitting wedge. Doing so could lead to crushed or amputated finger or hand.
- Only ever use your hand to operate the control levers. Never your foot, rope or other extension.
- Keep fingers away from cracks that may form in log during splitting. They can close quickly.
- Never attempt to split more than one log at a time. One may fly out unexpectedly. Do not try to split wood against the grain. The wood may burst.

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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- Keep work area clear of split wood to avoid tripping. Clean chips and dirt off end plate and wood platform to ensure flat contact of wood and end plate. Both ends of the log should be cut as square as possible to prevent the log from riding out during splitting.
- Always chock the wheels of splitter to prevent movement during operation. Never operate while splitter is still attached to the tow vehicle.
- Do not move the splitter over hilly or uneven ground without being attached to tow vehicle. Never move splitter while the engine is running.
- Do not step over splitter when the engine is running. You may activate the wedge, always walk around.
- 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.
- Avoid touching the muffler as it gets hot.
- Never stand on the unit while it is operating.

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. Logs can be 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.
- Make sure lifting table is securely stowed before towing.
- This log splitter should never be towed over 80 Kph.

Hydraulic

Hydraulic oil is under extreme pressure. Do not operate equipment with leaking or faulty hose connections or worn, cut hydraulic lines.

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, Unleaded 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. Flammable quantities of fuel may stay on clothes after a spill longer than expected. Operation of machines when clothes are wet or damp from petrol is extremely dangerous as the operators clothes may catch fire and cause serious or personal injury. 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 – Four Stroke Machine

- Only use unleaded petrol. Position on firm level ground. Hold machine firmly.
- Never attempt to start when the cutting wheel, blades or other moving parts are in contact with anything.
- Check that fuel tap is on, if fitted. Turn off/on switch on. Turn choke on.
- Pull starter rope slowly till you feel resistance (engine compression). Hold machine firmly while pulling the starter rope swiftly with your other hand. Short sharp pulls are required. Never pull to the end of the 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.
- Once it is running turn choke off. 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 or fuel tap.

Notes

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