

Garden Blower/Vacuum

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work carry out a site specific risk assessment.



It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE carrying out a site specific risk assessment.

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1. Turn off power source or power cord.
2. Do not touch any moving parts.
3. Do not touch any hot parts.
4. Do not turn on until the machine is running.
5. Do not turn on until the machine is running.

BLOWERS

1. Turn off power source or power cord.
2. Do not touch any moving parts.
3. Do not touch any hot parts.
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GENERAL

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VACUUMS

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3. Do not touch any hot parts.
4. Do not turn on until the machine is running.
5. Do not turn on until the machine is running.

Safety

1. Wear your protective equipment.
2. Check your tools and equipment before starting up.
3. Never run or touch anyone.
4. Never point the power nozzle at anyone.
5. Even if you have a mask, wear breathing goggles, dust mask, ear defenders, and gloves.

Using the Garden Blower/Vacuum

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Work Area

1. Do not use this equipment near to petrol or LPG storage areas or places where they may be explosive atmospheres. It will ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. Throw considerable distances from this machine. Protect delicate plants, garden ornaments, cold frames and building as necessary.
3. Make sure that the area work is being undertaken in is clear and safe and that no-one near to the user could distract them.
4. Protect other people from the noise and from injury. Keep others away, children and animals well away, barriers and warning signs may be needed around the work area.
5. Visually check the area where the work is being undertaken before starting the machine, remove hard or sharp objects like glass, wire or cans which may injure someone if blown or would damage the machine or the collection bag if sucked in.
6. It is recommended that the user works within visual or hearing range of someone who can offer assistance, should an accident occur.
7. Anybody who is working near the user will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
8. It is recommended that the user works within visual or hearing range of someone who can offer assistance, should an accident occur.

Operators

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever the machine is used. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. The equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 95 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.

Garden Blower / Vacuum

1. Check the garden blower/vacuum cables, plugs, collection bag, harness, and all the equipment. Do not use anything found damaged – contact the hire company.
2. Do not use the equipment as a general vacuum, or to pick up litter like cans or plastic bottles.
3. Prolonged vacuuming or fine dusts like sawdust will clog up the collection bag and diminish suction. This will reduce efficiency and overheat the machine.

Harness

1. If the machine is designed to be used with a harness, it is because it is too heavy or awkward to be used without.
2. If the harness attachment points are on the machine, then the harness should always be worn after adjusting it properly. This applies when vacuuming and blowing.
3. If the harness attachment points are on the vacuum collection bag it usually means that the harness only needs to be worn when vacuuming.
4. Put the shoulder harness on and adjust it to a comfortable fit before you carefully attach the garden vacuum. Attach the equipment using only the correct clips and fastenings.

110 Volt Machines (Yellow Plug)

1. If using a portable transformer, plug the transformer directly into the 230 volt socket. Do not use any 230v extension cables.
2. If an extension cable is needed, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company has not given any special instructions, then a suitable rated heavy duty 110v cable must only be used between the transformer and the machine.
3. Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorsways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will

230 Volt Machines (Square Pin or Blue Plug)

1. Use a residual current device (rcd) plugged directly in to the 230volt socket. Plug the machine into the square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug.
2. Read the instructions below for the machine.
3. If an extension cable is needed, follow any instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instructions, then use a suitably rated heavy duty one, no longer than 50meters (160 feet). Plug directly into the rcd.
4. Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorsways or windows where it might be trapped.
5. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

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