



*For guidance on managing construction health risks go to*  
**[www.hse.gov.uk/construction](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction)**

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## Using the Posthole Borer

1. Make sure you understand who will be giving instructions and what the signals will be.
  2. Wear your protective equipment, including boots and gloves.
  3. Plan your working positions and the route you will take around the holes to be dug. Clear the ground of building debris, such as bricks, wire or timber offcuts.
  4. Once the stihl posthole borer has been started and the auger fitted, you can lift it together into position. Check that you have a secure grip and footing before you start work.
  5. Always hold the machine securely with both hands on the handgrips and be prepared for any unexpected increase in turning force if the auger meets an obstruction.
  6. As soon as the guide tip of the auger has broken the soil surface, use full throttle to continue drilling.
  7. Stay alert and always be ready to stop the engine straightaway if you feel the posthole borer start to jam. If you don't, the body of the machine will spin around and you may lose control.
  8. If the machine starts to labour and slow down do not force it so hard. Lift the machine with the auger, turning to allow soil, clay and stones to be freed from the hole. Steady drilling, keeping the auger speed up, is more effective than aggressive pressure.
  9. If you think the auger is becoming blunt, do not force the machine. Contact the hire company to reset the cutting edge.
  10. If the auger jams in the ground, stop the engine straightaway. Turn the gear-locking lever to the right to lock the rotation gear. Now turn the entire machine anti-clockwise to screw the auger out of the ground. Disengage the gear-locking lever by turning it to the left as soon as the auger is free.
  11. If the force required to free the jammed auger is excessive, the gear-lock device will disengage. If this happens turn the tensioning ring clockwise 90 degrees to release the auger from the machine. Put the machine down and free the auger by digging it out, taking care not to damage the auger.
  12. Remember to check the gear-locking lever is unlocked before starting the engine.
  13. When you want to move on to the next hole, carry the machine between you, with the engine idling.
  14. Take care not to trip on the soil from the hole you have just dug or other obstacles.
  15. Watch out for signs that vibration from the work may be affecting your hands. If your fingers start to tingle or feel numb, take a short break from cutting work. Exercise your fingers to encourage blood circulation.
  16. To help prevent vibration affecting your hands, operate the machine for shorter periods. Keep your hands warm – wearing gloves may help to do this.
  17. If someone approaches you, stop work and let the machine idle until they are clear.
  18. Stop the engine if you need to make any adjustments or clear debris tangled in the auger.
  19. Stop the engine if leaving the machine unattended.
  20. When you have finished work, turn the gear-locking lever to the right. Turn the machine on its side and leave it to cool.

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



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**EFTTING AUGERS OR EXTENSIONS**

Do not start an auger until you are ready to stir work.

Check that the auger spindle is squarely located in the spindle drive spindle.

Ring antlockwise until it stops. This will lock it in place by turning the extension ring anticlockwise until it stops.

Extensions should be added only when the auger has penetrated into the ground far enough to support its weight.

Please ease the tensioning ring and lift the bore or the top of the extension rod onto the auger spindle and lock it into place.

Now locate the bore or the top of the extension rod onto the auger spindle clear of the extension ring.

Do not try to start a fresh hole with the ground.

Remember the auger should be rotating when boring or drilling. The engine should be idling and the auger NOT rotating when you add or remove extensions.

1. The maximum depth this machine can bore is 10 feet.

2. Contract the hire company.

- 2. In case of water, you may need to let the engine warm up by gently opening the throttle before starting work.
- 3. In warm weather if the engine is hot, start the engine with the choke in the OFF (forward) position.
- 4. Close the throttle and switch the ignition switch to STOP.

**SUPPLYING THE ENGINE** Close the throttle and switch

- E. In cold weather, you may need to let the engine warm up by gently opening the throttle, before starting work.
- 3. In warm weather or if the engine is hot, start the engine with the choke in the OFF (forward) position.

Before Starting Work...