

USEFUL TIPS FOR PETROL CHAINSAWS



Product Definition

Petrol powered Chainsaws are designed to cut and trim tree and shrub branches. These powerful, potentially hazardous tools operate at high engine speeds to propel the chain through a wood surface and make a quick cut.

Before using petrol powered Chainsaws

Protect yourself by wearing:

- ✓ Safety footwear.
- ✓ Snug-fitting clothing.
- ✓ Protective chaps.
- ✓ Protective gloves.
- ✓ Eye, hearing, and head protection devices.

Carry the chainsaw with the engine stopped, the guide bar and saw chain to the rear, and the muffler away from your body.

Don't cut until you have a clear work area, secure footing, and a planned retreat path from the falling tree.

Be careful handling fuel. Move the chainsaw at least 3 meters (10 feet) from the fuelling point before starting the engine.

Do not allow other people near the chainsaw when starting or cutting with it. Keep bystanders and animals out of the work area.

Make sure the saw chain is not contacting anything before starting the engine.

Check that the cutting area is free of obstructions. Don't let the nose of the guide bar contact a log, branch, or other obstruction that could be hit while you are operating the saw.

Do not operate a chainsaw that is damaged, improperly adjusted, or not completely and securely assembled. Make sure the saw chain stops moving when you release the throttle control trigger.

Do not operate when you are tired. Excessive vibration, noise, emissions, and uncomfortable positions may cause fatigue.

Do You Understand Chainsaw "Kickback?" Kickback may occur when the nose or tip of the guide bar touches an object or when the wood closes in and pinches the saw chain in the cut. Tip contact may cause a lightning-fast reverse reaction, kicking the guide bar up and back toward the operator.

Pinching the saw chain along the top of the guide bar may push the guide bar rapidly back toward the operator. Either of these reactions may cause you to lose control of the saw, which could result in serious personal injury.

Do not rely exclusively upon the safety devices built into your saw. As a chain saw user, you should take several steps to keep you cutting jobs free from accident or injury.

Operate Your Petrol-Powered Chainsaw Carefully

Reduce or eliminate the element of surprise by understanding how kickback happens.

Keep all body parts away from the saw chain when engine is running.

Do not operate a chainsaw with one hand! Serious injury to the operator, helpers, bystanders, or others may result from one-handed operation. Chainsaws are designed for two-handed use.

Keep a good, firm grip on the saw with both hands when the engine is running. Keep the right hand on the rear handle and the left hand on the front handle. Use a firm grip with thumbs and fingers encircling the chainsaw handles. A firm grip will help you reduce kickback and maintain control of the saw. Don't let go.

Cut at high engine speeds.

Don't overreach or cut above shoulder height.

Use extreme caution when cutting small-size brush and saplings because slender material may catch the saw chain and be whipped toward you or pull you off balance.

When cutting a limb that is under tension, be alert for spring back so that you will not be struck when the tension in the wood fibres is released.

Keep the handles dry, clean, and free of oil or fuel mixture.

Operate the chainsaw only in well-ventilated areas.

Do not operate a chainsaw in a tree unless you have been specifically trained to do so.

Shut off the engine before setting the chainsaw down.

Keep your chainsaw in peak operating condition

Follow the manufacturer's sharpening and maintenance instructions for the chain.

Replace bars and chains only with those specified by the manufacturer or the equivalent.

All chainsaw service, other than the items listed in the owner's manual maintenance instructions, should be performed by competent chainsaw service personnel. (For instance, improper tools used for repair may cause damage to various parts).

When transporting your chainsaw, use the appropriate guide-bar scabbard.

CHAINSAWS

Safety Guide

(Also see: AS/NZS 2726.2-2004 Chainsaws - Safety Requirements - Chainsaws For Tree Service)

Working in a tree requires the use of special cutting and working techniques, which must be observed in order to reduce the increased risk of personal injury. Never work in a tree unless you have received specific, professional training for such work, including training in the use of the safety and other climbing equipment, such as harnesses, ropes, belts, climbing irons, snap hooks, carabineers, etc.

The use of any chainsaw may be hazardous. The saw chain has many sharp cutters. If the cutters contact your flesh, they will cut you, even if the chain is not moving. At full throttle, the chain speed can reach 70 (KPH).

It is important that you read, fully understand and observe the following safety precautions and warnings.

Reactive forces, including kickback, can be dangerous. Careless or improper use of any chainsaw may cause serious or fatal injury. Pay special attention to the section on reactive forces.

All safety precautions that are generally observed when working with an axe or a handsaw also apply to the operation of chainsaws. However, because a chainsaw is a high-speed, fast-cutting power tool, special safety precautions must be observed to reduce the risk of personal injury.

Minors should never be allowed to use a chainsaw. Bystanders, especially children, and animals should not be allowed in the area where a chainsaw is in use. Never let the saw run unattended.

Do not operate a chainsaw when you are fatigued. Be alert. If you get tired while operating your chainsaw, take a break. Tiredness may result in loss of control. Working with any chainsaw can be strenuous. If you have any condition that might be aggravated by strenuous work, check with your doctor before operating a chainsaw.

Warning: Prolonged use of chainsaws exposing the operator to vibrations may produce white finger disease or carpal tunnel syndrome.

These conditions reduce the hand's ability to feel and regulate temperature, produce numbness and burning sensations and may cause nerve and circulation damage and tissue necrosis.

All factors which contribute to white finger disease are not known, but cold weather, smoking and diseases or physical conditions that affect blood vessels and blood transport, as well as high vibration levels and long periods of exposure to vibration are mentioned as factors in the development of white finger disease. In order to reduce the risk of white finger disease and carpal tunnel syndrome, please note the following.

Many models are available with an anti-vibration system designed to reduce the transmission of vibrations created by the engine and cutting attachment to the operator's hands. An AV system is recommended for those people using chainsaws on a regular or sustained basis.

Wear gloves and keep your hands warm. Heated handles, which are available on most power heads, are recommended for cold weather use.

Keep the saw chain sharp and the saw, including the AV system, well maintained. A dull chain will increase cutting time, and pressing a dull chain through wood will increase the vibrations transmitted to

your hands. A saw with loose components or with damaged or worn AV buffers will also tend to have higher vibration levels.

Maintain a firm grip at all times, but do not squeeze the handles with constant, excessive pressures, take frequent breaks.

All the above mentioned precautions do not guarantee that you will not sustain white finger disease or carpal tunnel syndrome. Therefore, continual and regular users should monitor closely the condition of their hands and fingers.

Warning: The ignition system of your unit produces an electromagnetic field of a very low intensity. This field may interfere with some pacemakers. To reduce the risk of serious or fatal injury, persons with pacemaker should consult their physician and the pacemaker manufacturer before operating this tool.

Clothing must be sturdy and snug fitting, but allow complete freedom of movement. Avoid loose fitting jackets, scarves, neckties, jewellery, flared or cuffed pants, unconfined long hair or anything that could become entangled with the saw or brush. Wear overalls or jeans with reinforced cut retardant inserts or cut retardant chaps.

Protect your hands with gloves when handling saw and saw chain. Heavy-duty, non-slip gloves improve your grip and protect your hands.

Good footing is most important in chainsaw work. Wear sturdy boots with non-slip soles. Steel-toed safety boots suitable for climbing in trees are recommended. To reduce the risk of injury to your eyes never operate a chainsaw unless wearing goggles or properly fitted safety glasses with adequate top and side protection.

Wear an approved safety hard hat to protect your head. Chainsaw noise may damage your hearing.

Always wear sound barriers (ear plugs or ear muffs) to protect your hearing. Continual and regular users should have their hearing checked regularly. Any crew member in the cutting area should also wear proper protective clothing, especially hard hats, to protect their heads.

Starting/stopping the engine

Push hand guard forward: The chain is now locked.

Press throttle trigger interlock and set master control lever to: Choke for cold start and run for warm start.

Place your saw on the ground. Make sure you have a firm footing. Check that the chain is not touching any object or the ground.

Hold the saw firmly on the ground with your right hand on the top handle and your right knee resting on the carburettor box cover.

Pull the starter grip slowly with your right hand until you feel it engage, and then give it a brisk strong pull and push down the front handle at the same time.

Do not pull out starter rope to its full length. It might otherwise break.

Do not let the starter grip snap back. Guide it slowly and vertically into the housing so that the starter rope can rewind properly.

When engine begins to fire

Move master control lever to the run position and continue cranking. As soon as engine runs, immediately blip the throttle trigger. The master control lever will move to the on position and the engine will settle down to idling speed.

As the chain brake is still engaged, the engine must be returned to idling speed immediately or the engine and chain brake might otherwise be damaged.

Pull the hand guard back toward the top handle. The chain brake is now disengaged and your saw is ready for operation.

Always disengage chain brake before accelerating engine. High revs with the chain brake engaged will quickly damage the power head and chain drive.

SAFETY OPERATING PROCEDURES

Chainsaw - Electric

DO NOT use this machine unless have been inducted & fully trained in its safe use and operation.



PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. Do not use an electric chainsaw in wet conditions.
2. Faulty equipment must not be used. Report suspect machinery immediately.
3. Ensure that the machine and extension cord are tested and tagged for currency.
4. Ensure the extension cord is in good condition.
5. Ensure a tagged and tested RCD is used when operating the machine.
6. Trip test the RCD before use.
7. Ensure that chain guard and chain brake are functioning.
8. Ensure chain is sharp and correctly tensioned.
9. Ensure that safety harness, if required, is in sound condition.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. Maintain a proper balance and secure footing.
2. Keep a firm grip on the chainsaw with both hands, with the thumb of the hand holding the front handle wrapped around the handle.
3. Start the cut with the saw chain rotating at full speed and the spiked bumper in contact with the wood.
4. Pay full attention to the operation and be alert for movement of the material being cut.
5. Be aware of the guide bar nose at all times when the saw chain is in motion.
6. Be alert to situations that may cause material to pinch the top of the saw chain.
7. Avoid the accumulation of debris.
8. Ensure that no person or animal is endangered when operating this equipment.

HOUSEKEEPING

1. When chainsaw stopped & switched remove any foreign material from motor & guards.
2. Keep the work area and implement shed in a clean and tidy condition.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| ■ Kick-back | ■ Push-back |
| ■ Pull-in | |
| ■ Rotating chain | ■ Flying debris |
| ■ Trip hazards | |
| ■ Loose clothing entanglement | ■ Noise |

Date of last review _____

Signature _____

Safe Operating Procedure for Petrol Chainsaws

This equipment can only be operated by a trained and authorised worker of the company. Equipment must NOT be altered or modified without authorisation.

SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS THAT MUST BE FOLLOWED:

Check the general condition of the equipment; that the chain is sharp; not damaged; and has correct tension. Check level of oil reservoir. Check with supervisor if unsure.

- ✓ Only adjust chain tension when chainsaw is cold.
- ✓ Chain should make contact with bottom of guide bar.
- ✓ Check correct functioning of all switches, controls and emergency stops before use.
- ✓ Secure loose clothing and long hair. Avoid contact with moving parts.
- ✓ Clear the work area of debris, undergrowth or other tripping hazards before operating chainsaw.
- ✓ Hearing protection and glasses or face shield **MUST** be worn.
- ✓ Assistants working with you must also wear hearing and eye protection.
- ✓ Keep hands/fingers away from saw blade and all moving parts.
- ✓ Hold the chainsaw firmly with both hands.
- ✓ Extend arms and lock your elbows to be fully prepared for any unexpected kickback.
- ✓ Minimise stooping and bending when operating chainsaw.
- ✓ Clear away debris, branches and trimmings before cutting a log or stump.
- ✓ Maintain your balance
- ✓ Do **NOT** try to extend beyond a balanced position to perform another cut.
- ✓ Turn the chainsaw off between cuts and **NEVER** carry cut branches in one hand and a chainsaw with the engine running in the other hand.
- ✓ Report all equipment faults and hazards to the supervisor/manager.
- ✓ Turn chainsaw off to perform maintenance and to clean it down.
- ✗ **NEVER** start a cut with the top of the blade. Use the bottom of the blade.
- ✗ **NEVER** leave a chainsaw running and unattended.
- ✗ **NEVER** use chainsaw in confined area and beware of exhaust fumes.



Beware of contact with saw blade; saw blade kickback and jamming; flying objects; loud noise; and fire hazards caused by petrol fuel.



SAFETY OPERATING PROCEDURES

Chainsaw - Petrol Operated

DO NOT use this machine unless have been inducted & fully trained in its safe use and operation.



PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. Ensure the machine is clean to facilitate detection of loose, worn or defective parts and other safety hazards.
2. Inspect fuel lines, tank, and area around carburetor for fuel leaks. Do not operate unit if leaks are found.
3. Faulty equipment must not be used. Report suspect machinery immediately.
4. Check the effectiveness of chainbrakes and operating controls.
5. Ensure safety guards and other safety devices are fitted, secure and functioning.
6. Check condition of the anti-vibration mountings of the handles.
7. Ensure chain is sharp and correctly tensioned.

OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

1. When starting the chainsaw on the ground:
2. Ensure no obstructions are present particularly near the tip of the guide bar.
3. Place the right foot through the rear handle and place the left hand on the front handle.
4. Operate the starter with the right hand.
5. Keep a firm grip on the chainsaw with both hands, with the thumb of the hand holding the front handle wrapped around the handle.
6. Maintain a proper balance and secure footing when operating the chainsaw.
7. Start the cut with the saw chain rotating at full speed and the spiked bumper in contact with the wood.
8. Be aware of the guide bar nose at all times when the saw chain is in motion.
9. Pay full attention to the operation and be alert for movement of the material being cut.
10. Be alert to situations that may cause material to pinch the top of the saw chain.
11. Apply chain brake when saw is at rest.
12. Avoid the accumulation of debris.
13. Never use a chainsaw over shoulder height.
14. Allow a hot chainsaw to cool before refilling the fuel tank.

HOUSEKEEPING

1. Remove any foreign material from motor and guards.
2. Keep the work area and implement shed in a clean and tidy condition.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Kick-back	Push-back	Pull-in	Loose clothing entanglement
Rotating chain	Flying debris	Trip hazards	Noise

Date of last review _____

Signature _____

Safe Work Method Statement & Risk Assessment – CHAINSAWS

COMPANY DETAILS Timothy Craig, Paradise Commercial Garden Maintenance ABN: 62 803 286 807		Project Name Address: Signed off: Date: Name & Signature of Authorising Manager:			
Job: CHAINSAWS			Area:		
Procedure (in steps):		Possible Hazards:	RISK Assessment	Safety Controls:	
Job broken down into steps		Identify the hazards associated with each step. Examine each to find possibilities that could lead to an accident.		Actions or procedure to be taken to eliminate or mitigate the risk of injury or damage. Include measures to be taken to ensure that the safety control is maintained.	Person Responsible
1.	NOTIFY CLIENT OF TIME & DATE FOR WORK TO BE CARRIED OUT	NONE	NONE	NONE	Supervisor
2.	ISSUE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)	HEAD, HAND, FOOT, EYE & SERIOUS BODILY INJURY	HIGH	Safety glasses/Goggles or Safety helmet & Visor, Chainsaw Chaps OR Chainsaw Trousers, Fire Retardant Chainsaw Chaps, Fire Retardant Shirt. Chainsaw Vests, Line Trimmer Chaps, Arm Protectors, Snake Protective Gaiter, Chainsaw protective clothing)	Supervisor
3.	ESTABLISHMENT OF SITE	MANUAL HANDLING, POSSIBLE BACK STRAIN, IMPACT INJURY ETC.	MEDIUM	REFER TO CODE OF PRACTICE FOR MANUAL HANDLING	Supervisor

Procedure (in steps):		Possible Hazards:	RISK	Safety Controls:	
Job broken down into steps		Identify the hazards associated with each step. Examine each to find possibilities that could lead to an accident.	Assessment	Actions or procedure to be taken to eliminate or mitigate the risk of injury or damage. Include measures to be taken to ensure that the safety control is maintained.	Person Responsible
4.	ASSESS SITE, HAZARDS AND RISKS AND DETERMINE SPECIFIC STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES	PERSONNEL/MEMBERS OF PUBLIC BEING INJURED	MEDIUM	Set up appropriate barricades & signage, (or rope off area), notify people in near vicinity. Apply traffic control plan if working by roadway.	Supervisor
5.	PRE USE CHECKS: CHAINSAWS ARE IN GOOD REPAIR TEST THAT THROTTLE TRIGGER, SAFETY THROTTLE LOCK & STOP SWITCH OPERATE CORRECTLY CHECK CHAIN BRAKE WORKS PROPERLY - CHAIN IS LUBRICATED & SHARP - CARBURETTOR IDLE ADJUSTMENT IS CORRECT	INJURY TO OPERATORS	MEDIUM	Ensure operator has been trained in safe operation of chainsaws. Before attempting any safety checks make sure machinery is turned off.	Supervisor
6.	FUELLING OF CHAINSAW	INJURY TO OPERATOR	MEDIUM	Ensure no smoking rule enforced whilst re-fuelling; ensure saw is off. Use defined re-fuelling area.	Supervisor
7.	START UP EQUIPMENT, OPERATE TO MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTION	INJURY TO HANDS AND BODY	HIGH	Ensure all safety guards are in place and working properly.	Supervisor
8.	USING CHAINSAWS	SERIOUS BODILY INJURY, POSSIBLY FATAL	HIGH	Ensure saw tip is away from wood to reduce kickback; ensure cutting carried out from up-side of log to prevent roll & crush hazard. Ensure balanced, firm footing to prevent fall; ensure saw kept away from body, avoid working directly above saw blade. Ensure saw is kept clear & away from any foreign objects e.g. rocks or metal (including nails); be aware of compression timber and direction of possible branch/wood spring;	Supervisor
9.	CHECK REGULARLY DURING DAILY USE THE SHAPRNESS OF SAW CHAIN AND CHECK GUIDE BAR FOR BURRING.	INJURY TO OPERATOR	HIGH	Ensure safe operation of all chainsaws on site, including those being used by other workers.	Supervisor
<p>SPECIAL NOTES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHEN CUTTING WORK COMPLETED, SWITCH OFF CHAINSAW & SET SAFELY ASIDE • CLEAN UP SITE, LEAVE CLEAN & TIDY • PACK UP, LOAD & SAFELY SECURE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT ONTO TRUCK or TRAILER • NOTIFY CLIENT THAT THIS JOB HAS BEEN COMPLETED 					

