For guidance on managing construction health risks go to
www.hse.gov.uk/construction

Redistributed under licence from HAE by FTH Hire Group. Licence expires on 31/03/2022

1608 Safety Guidance
110/230V v:062017

FTH HIRE GROUP

Hedge Trimmer

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment.

It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE you use the Hedge Trimmer

1. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.
2. Electricity is dangerous and must always be used with great care.
3. This hedge trimmer is designed for cutting back and trimming hedges, shrubs and similar plants.
4. The sharp trimming blade reciprocates very fast and can cause injury or damage if the machine is not used in a careful and controlled way.
5. If you have not used a hedge trimmer before, familiarise yourself with how the machine works before you start on the main task.
6. You must have at least the following items of personal protective equipment: goggles – impact resistant EN 166-B or BS2092 grade 1; ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 98 dB(A); dust mask – a minimum of EN149 ffp3(S) protection; gloves.
7. This machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. This machine is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

Every effort has been made by HAE/EHA to ensure that the information given in this document and supporting material is accurate and not misleading. HAE/EHA cannot accept responsibility for any loss or liability perceived to have arisen from the use of any such document/material. Only Acts of Parliament and Statutory Instruments have the force of law and only the courts can authoritatively interpret the law.

Using the Hedge Trimmer

1. Wear your protective equipment including ear defenders, goggles and face mask.
2. Make sure there is no-one in your area of work.
3. Keep the cable clear of the cutting blade at all times.
4. Always hold the hedge trimmer firmly with both hands while working.
5. Make sure the cutting blade is running at full speed before starting to cut into the hedge.
6. Do not try to cut thick twigs. This hedge trimmer is only for trimming foliage.
7. Do not try to cut off all growth in one pass, remove it one layer at a time. Make sure that you can control the amount you are removing before you take off the final layer.
8. This hedge trimmer must only be used to cut foliage up to shoulder height. If you need to trim foliage above shoulder height then a suitable stable platform must be used.
9. Beware of debris that may be thrown out by the trimming blade.
10. If the hedge trimmer starts to labour and slow down do not force it so hard. Do not overload the motor.
11. Stop the hedge trimmer if someone approaches you.
12. Switch off and remove the plug before making any adjustments. Make sure the trimming blade has stopped.
13. If you think the cable may be cut or damaged in any way, switch off and unplug at the socket before inspecting it. If the cable attached to the hedge trimmer is damaged, stop using the machine. Contact the hire company. If an extension cable has been damaged, do not use it again.
14. Switch off and unplug before leaving the machine unattended.
15. If your equipment does not work properly do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

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

v:062017

HAE HIRE ASSOCIATION EUROPE

Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

Useful Reference Points • www.hae.org.uk/businessguard

Before Starting Work...

WORK AREA

1. Do not use this hedge trimmer where there is a danger of explosion. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
2. Make sure that the area is clear and safe and that no-one is near to you or could distract you.
3. Protect other people from the noise and from injury. Keep people at least 10 metres (32 feet) away.
4. Before starting, check there is no wire, stout branches or other debris that could foul the hedge trimmer. Wear gloves to do this.
5. Plan and maintain a safe path for your electric cable.
6. If you need to cut foliage above shoulder height then a suitable stable platform must be used. Contact the hire company.
7. Do not use the hedge trimmer in the rain or to cut wet foliage.

OPERATORS

1. The following items of personal protective equipment (ppe) are the minimum that should be worn whenever you use this hedge trimmer. Particular jobs or environments may require a higher level of protection.
2. You must wear goggles (EN166 – B or BS2092 grade 1) when you are working with this machine.
3. This equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 98 dB(A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
4. You may need to wear an appropriate dustmask if the hedge you are trimming gives off pollen or other dust when cut.
5. Wear gloves to protect your hands.

HEDGE TRIMMER

1. Check your machine, cables and all equipment. Do not use anything found damaged – contact the hire company.
2. Make sure that any guards on your hedge trimmer are in place and adjusted correctly.
3. Always hold the hedge trimmer correctly with both hands when working.
4. Make sure that you understand all of the controls. Before you switch on the hedge trimmer, you must know how to stop it.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Your machine will only operate on one voltage: it will be 110v or 230v. 110v machines will have a yellow industrial plug fitted.

230 VOLT MACHINES (SQUARE PIN OR BLUE PLUG)

1. Use a residual current device ("rcd") plugged directly in to the 230 volt socket. Plug your machine into the rcd. This will help to protect you against electric shock if the cable or machine get damaged.
2. Use the "TEST" button to check that the rcd is working each time you use it. Reset the rcd according to the instructions supplied with it.
3. If you need an extension cable, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instructions, you should only use a suitably rated heavy duty one, not longer than 50 meters (160 feet). Plug it directly into the rcd.
4. Lay it out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
5. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

110 VOLT MACHINES (YELLOW PLUG)

1. If you are using a portable transformer, plug the transformer directly into the 230 volt socket. Do not use any 230v extension cables.
2. If you need to use an extension cable, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instructions, you should only use a suitably rated heavy duty 110v extension cable, not longer than 50 meters (160 feet). You must only use an extension cable between the transformer and the machine.
3. Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
4. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.
5. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

HAE HIRE ASSOCIATION EUROPE

Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

Any unauthorised reproduction – manually or electronically – is STRICTLY prohibited
©Copyright Hire Association Europe April 2011