



# Using the Compressed Air

1. Wear the protective equipment including ear defenders, dust masks and goggles.
2. Check that any air lubrication container is topped with the recommended oil.
3. When the equipment has been set up, start up and check that everything operates properly.
4. Ensure there are no apparent air leaks.
5. At intervals, while working, stop and check for air leaks or other possible faults. Check the oil level in the container at the same time.
6. Stop work if approached.
7. Shut down and release the air pressure before disconnecting any part of the equipment.
8. Shut down and release the air pressure before leaving the equipment unattended.
9. If the equipment develops a leak or does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Keep this leaflet safe as it may be required for reference at a future date

# Compressed Air

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 this entire leaflet and any others issued BEFORE using the compressed air



1. The compressor may be electric, petrol, or diesel powered. Three potentially hazardous energy sources. Remember electricity is dangerous and must always be used with great care. Petrol or diesel is highly flammable. Take care not to cause a fire or explosion.
2. Compressed air is dangerous and must be used carefully. NEVER AIM A JET OF COMPRESSED AIR AT ANYONE.
3. Compressed air is used to power various air – operated tools such as drilling machines, grinders, and paint spraying equipment. Use it only for the specified tasks agreed with the hire company.
4. The action of compressed air can cause injury or damage if not used in a careful and controlled way.
5. If you have not used compressed air before, familiarise yourself with the equipment before you start work.
6. Plan your work and think ahead to make sure you will always be working safely.

(Continued overleaf...)



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5. Do not use it to blow dust and debris from portable tools, the airborne dust particles could be dangerous to health.
  6. Do not use compressed air in any flame heating or cutting equipment that normally uses oxygen.
  7. Do not blow it into any source of fire. It will generate heat and blow burning fragments around.
  8. Do not use compressed air to supply any form of breathing equipment or to supplement or replace ventilation system.
  9. Compressed air must not be used to clean clothes or work areas. You must not use it in an unauthorised way and without correct equipment.
  10. Do not use at a greater pressure than recommended.
  11. Do not connect or disconnect any tool or pipe while the system is pressurised, release the pressure first.
  12. Check on how the equipment operates before starting it up, know how to stop it.
- COMPRESSED AIR**
1. Check the equipment, hoses, gauges, and tools. If anything is found damaged, do not use the compressed air – contact the hire company.
  2. Compressed air carries a minute amount of oil – mist to prevent any air tool seizing up. Check that any lubrication container on your compressor is topped up with the recommended oil. Check the levels regularly.
  3. Do not point a jet air at people or animals. It can cause injury even through clothing.
  4. Do not blast air onto skin. It can penetrate or blow splinters in.
- Before Starting Work...**
5. Anyone working close by will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
  3. Protect other people from the noise and danger. Warn others to keep away, put barriers around the work area.
  8. Compressed air must not be used by minors, or anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
  9. Compressed air is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.



7. Some or all of the following items of personal protective equipment may be required: impact resistant goggle; dust mask – a minimum of FFP3(s) protection; ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 89db(A); gloves.
  8. Compressed air must not be used by minors, or anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
  9. Compressed air is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.
- WORK AREA BEFORE STARTING WORK**
1. Do not use compressed air where there is a danger of explosion. The compressor or one of the tools being used may create sparks that could ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
  2. Make sure that the work area is clear and safe and that no-one is close by or could cause distraction.
  3. Compressed air equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 89db (A) – wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
  4. An appropriate dust mask (with a minimum of FFP3 (s) protection) is to be worn when working with material that causes dust.

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