

Garden Blower/Vacuum

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 Garden Blower/Vacuum



Electricity can be hazardous and must always be used with great care. The equipment is designed to blow leaves and other debris from gardens, paths and lawns into corners and other suitable areas, and to vacuum up debris into bags or containers for disposal, and to vacuum up outdoor areas that are lightly covered with garden debris into the collection bag ready for disposal. The machine is not used on wet surfaces. Do not use the machine if anyone with the suction nozzle or blower outlet, (b) removing the vacuum bag on some units may expose the fan/impeller; wait until machine stops completely; if your machine is designed for use with a harness, you must use it; if the operator has not used a garden blower/vacuum before, practice using the controls and working with the machine before using it on a job. Do not use the machine if you have any problems that may occur so they can be dealt with safely. The vibration from the machine is normally quite low, check the label on the machine, or ask the hire company.

- The following items of personal protective equipment should be used:
 - Ear muffs or plugs giving protection for levels up to 90dB (A);
 - Impact resistant goggles: EN166 – B or BS2092 grade 1;
 - Protective gloves
 - Strong shoes
 - Overalls or long sleeves and full trousers;
 - A dust mask may need to be worn - providing a minimum of EN149:2001FFP2 protection;
 - The machine must not be used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- The garden blower is designed for operation by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability should seek expert medical advice before using it.



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- Do not use this equipment near to petrol or LPG storage areas or explosive atmosphere. It will ignite fumes from petrol, or gas cylinders.
 - Stones and other debris can be thrown considerable distances by this machine. Protect delicate plants, garden ornaments, cold frames and buildings as necessary.
 - Make sure that the area work is being undertaken is clear and safe and that no-one near to the user could distract them.
 - Protect other people from the noise and from injury. Keep others especially children and animals well away, barriers and warning signs may be needed around the work area.
 - Visually check the area where the starting of the machine involves 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.
- OPERATORS**
- 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.
 - The equipment is likely to cause noise levels up to 90 dB(A) - wear appropriate ear muffs or plugs giving hearing protection for this level as a minimum.
 - Impact resistant goggles (EN166 – B or BS2092 grade 1) when using the equipment.
 - Wear an appropriate mask (with a minimum of EN149:2001 FFP2 protection) if working on a dusty surface.
 - Wear strong gloves for protection when handling any waste material. Do not wear rubber gloves; they may cause a build-up of static electricity.
 - Wear long trousers and long sleeves to protect against ejected waste material and as a general precaution against sharp thorns and insects.
 - Anybody who is working near the user will also need to wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
 - It is recommended that the user works within visual or hearing range of someone who can assist in an emergency should an accident occur.
- GARDEN BLOWER / VACUUM**
- Check the garden blower/vacuum cables, plugs collection bag, harness, and all the equipment. Do not use anything found damaged - contact the hire company.
 - Do not use the equipment as a general vacuum, or to pick up litter like cans or plastic bottles.
 - Prolonged vacuuming of fine dusts will fill the collection bag and clog up the motor. This will reduce efficiency and overheat the machine.



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Please store this leaflet safely. It may be required for further information



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Before Starting Work...



- Do not use as a vacuum to collect water or other liquids. Do not vacuum anything that is wet. Damp leaves or similar should be blown to a fresh pile before vacuuming. This will remove excess water.
 - Make sure the user understands all of the controls, before starting the equipment, the user must know how to stop it.
- HARNESS**
- If the machine is designed to be used with a harness, it is because it is too heavy or awkward to be used without.
 - 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.
 - If the harness attachment points are on the vacuum collection bag it usually means that the harness only needs to be worn when vacuuming. 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)**
- If using a portable transformer, plug the transformer directly into the 230 volt socket. Do not use any 230V extension cables.
 - If an extension cable is needed, instructions given by the hire company must be followed. If the hire company has not given any special instructions, then a suitably rated heavy duty 110V extension cable, not longer than 50metres (160 feet), is used between the transformer and the machine. Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might



be trapped, and place where the vehicles might run over it. Unroll it in the direction it will overheat and could catch fire.

- Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

230 VOLT MACHINES (SQUARE PIN OR BLUE PLUG)

- Use a residual current device (‘rod’) plugged directly in to the 230volt socket. Plug the machine into the rod. This will help protect against electric shock if the cable or machine gets damaged.
- Use the ‘RCD’ button to check that the RCD is working. Repeat the test if the instructions supplied with it.
- 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 50metres (160 feet). Plug directly into the rod.



- 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



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- Do not attempt to repair it - contact the hire company. Please keep this leaflet until the work is complete.

- The user is responsible for the safety of the machine. Do not store it in a way that could damage it. If the equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it - contact the hire company. Please keep this leaflet until the work is complete.

GENERAL

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USING THE GARDEN BLOWER/VACUUM

- Wear your protective equipment including goggles, dust mask, ear defenders, and gloves. Check there is no waste material in the machine before starting the machine.
- Never put your hands over the vacuum nozzle or the blower outlet while the machine is still in operation.
- Never point the machine at anyone even from a distance.
- If needed to clear a blockage, make an empty collection bag, or empty the collection bag first, allow the motor to stop completely. For extra safety, unplug the machine from the power supply or parts have to be removed, and where they fit, fit it. All the tubes and other parts need to be replaced before reconnecting the machine to the power supply. The machine must be stopped if anyone approaches and what they are working on.
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SAFETY

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