

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Grass Trimmer & Brush Cutter Safety Tips



Grass trimmers and brush cutters certainly were life-saving devices when they first hit the American market. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that there has been approximately 4,600 hospital emergencies associated with power lawn edgers and trimmers. About one-third of these emergencies were eye injuries. We should always wear safety goggles when using one of these machines. Also, we should go through the area that we plan to trim or cut and check for miscellaneous debris that can get into the yards.

Following are some tips that, if we follow them, will make our life safer and more enjoyable:

- Make sure that you read the instruction manual, understand all of the text and practice the instructions in the manual.
 - Hold the trimmer or brush cutter firmly with both hands.
 - Before you use the machine, make sure that the throttle lever springs back into the idle position.
 - Check to make sure that the blades or cord coil is adjusted properly and is tight.
 - Replace any bent, warped, damaged or dull cutting apparatus.
 - Select equipment with anti-vibration components. If you are doing big jobs with large fatigue factors, the anti-vibration components will help to alleviate some of the fatigue.
 - Be sure to dress correctly. Good fitting coveralls, jeans or long pants are the best route and the safest.
- Be sure to use the proper personal safety equipment, a good grade of work gloves and good quality non-slip work boots.
 - Wear safety goggles or a face shield with safety glasses.

CHECKLIST FOR SAFETY TIPS WHEN USING BRUSH CUTTER OR TRIMMER:

- Make sure that all bystanders, including pets, are clear of the work areas before you start.
- Check the area for idle debris such as rocks, glass or plastic bottles and metal before you start.
- Always refuel the engine when it has cooled down. Sometime, no matter how careful you are, fuel can splash on a hot engine and possibly ignite.
- Replace guards and shields when needed. This is especially important with cutters that have metal blades.
- If you have a machine with a body harness, make sure that it is adjusted correctly, or it will become uncomfortable quickly.
- Use trimmers or brush cutters at ground level only and always shut the engine off to remove clogged or a stuck cutter. Shut the machine off if you have to put it down for some reason.
- Always insure that you have proper footing and do not overreach.

**LUCK RUNS OUT - BUT SAFETY
IS GOOD FOR LIFE!

BE SAFE - NOT SORRY!!!**