

Hondalawnlovers

Safety Checklist When Using Your Hedgecutter



SAFETY CHECKLIST WHEN USING YOUR HEDGE CUTTER

From the manufacturer who brought you the first ever 4-stroke brushcutter, comes the world's only 4-stroke hedgecutter. With a unique cutting action that prevents vibration, Honda's powerful 4-stroke hedgecutter includes Advanced 4 stroke Technology so it runs quietly and efficiently with low emission levels. And because it uses unleaded fuel you'll never have to mix oil and petrol again.

To ensure safe operation

Operator Responsibility

- Any part from the machine is a potential source of danger if the machine is used in abnormal conditions or if the maintenance is not done correctly.
- Read the owner's manual carefully. Be familiar with the controls and their proper use of the hedge trimmer. Know how to stop the engine rapidly.
- Use the hedge trimmer for the purpose it is intended for, that is trimming for hedge.
 - Any other use could be dangerous or damage the hedge trimmer.
- Do not use the hedge trimmer as a pruning hook.
- Never allow children or people unfamiliar with this owner's manual to use the hedge trimmer. Local regulations may restrict the age of the operator.
- If you lend or resell your hedge trimmer to a third person, instruct him or her with how to handle the product and alert him or her to read and understand the Owner's Manual carefully before operation.
- Never operate the hedge trimmer while:
 - people, especially children or pets are nearby.
 - user is fatigued or under medication, or has swallowed substances known to affect judgement or reactions.
- Keep people and pets at least 4.5m (15ft.) away from the operator during operation. Note that an assistant to the operator should work at least 4.5m (15ft.) away from the operator, too. We recommend to decide the engine stop signal and other signals between the operator and assistant, and use them for safety during operation.
- Keep in mind that the operator or user is responsible for accidents or hazards occurring to other people or their property.
- While operating the hedge trimmer, always wear following protective clothing and protective devices.



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Protective clothing

Wear adequate clothes with long sleeves and long pants.

The clothes must fit your body and button up or zip up the clothes securely. Do not leave the sleeves and bottom of the shirt/jacket loose.

Wear the arm covers, too.

Do not wear the clothes with the tapes, laces and/or ribbons, loose clothes, necktie, necklace, etc. during operation. They can be caught in the hedge trimmer or on the weed causing injury. Bind your hair if it is long, and do not let your hair below your shoulder.

Protective devices

Goggles

Wear the goggles or other eye protection to protect your eyes from the debris that is thrown by the operating cutter blade.

Helmet

Wear the helmet to protect your head from the overhead branches and the falling foreign material.

Face shield

Wear face shield to protect your face from the debris thrown by the operating cutter blade.

Ear muffs/ear plugs

Wear the ear muff, ear plugs or other hearing protection to protect your ears from the noise.

Gloves

Wear the gloves to protect your hands.

Safety boots

Wear the safety boots with the non-slip sole and toe protector to protect your feet from the flying debris.

Do not operate the equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals.

Wear the leg protectors as well.

Dust mask

We recommend that you wear the dust mask if you suffer from the allergic rhinitis, e.g. pollenosis, etc. The dust mask is available at a pharmacy and it is helpful for reducing the amount of pollens you breathe.



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- Before each use, visually inspect the hedge trimmer for any damage and looseness of fastening part.
- Avoid operating the hedge trimmer at night or in a bad weather of poor visibility, because there is much possibility of accident.
- Walk, never run during operation.
- Avoid operating the hedge trimmer on a steep slope.
- The steep slope is very slippery, so you can slip down.
- Do not operate the hedge trimmer with the labels, and other parts removed.
- Do not mount an incorrect part and do not tamper with the hedge trimmer as it can result in personal injury and/or equipment damage.
- Before cranking the engine, be sure to check the cutter blade cannot come into contact with the ground or any obstruction.
- Start the engine carefully according to instructions and with hands and feet well away from the cutter blade.
- Start the hedge trimmer on a level surface, free of high grass or obstacle.
- Do not press the hedge trimmer on a tree, etc. Match the motion and speed of the cutter blade and work.
- Never carry the hedge trimmer while it is operating. Before you carry the hedge trimmer, be sure to stop the engine and confirm the cutter blade stops. Cover the blade with the protective plastic cover while carrying the trimmer.
- When the engine is hot, keep away from the muffler to avoid getting burned.
- When you carry the hedge trimmer, keep it away from your body, because the muffler will be hot.
- Stop the engine and make sure that the engine switch is in the OFF position in the following cases:
 - Before any operation around the cutter blade.
 - Before checking, cleaning or working on the hedge trimmer.
 - After striking a foreign object. Inspect the hedge trimmer for damage and make repairs before restarting and operating the hedge trimmer again.
 - If hedge trimmer starts to vibrate abnormally. Check immediately the cause of the vibration and perform the necessary repair.

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- Turn the engine switch to the OFF position and stop the engine in the following cases:
 - Whenever you leave the hedge trimmer unattended.
 - Before refueling.
 - When any person or pet is approaching.
 - Shut off the engine immediately when the hedge trimmer shows abnormal vibration suddenly. Sudden vibration can suggest the damaged sliding parts or loose fasteners. Examine the cause of the problem, and do not start the engine before repair is made.
 - Shut off the engine immediately when, after returning the throttle lever, the cutter blade still operates. Examine the cause of the problem, and do not start the engine before repair is made.
 - When a wire catches on the cutter blade. Remove the wire after stopping the engine. If you remove it without stopping the engine, the cutter blade starts to operate and you may get injured.
 - Before placing the hedge trimmer on the ground, make sure the cutter blade stops turning as well.
- Note that the cutter blade is operating by inertia right after returning the throttle lever and while the engine is idling.
- Be careful not to cut anything hard such as a wire or iron plate. It causes a failure or accident.
- If the hedge trimmer should touch an obstacle, stop the engine immediately and check if there is a problem with the cutter blade. If the cutter blade has any damage such as cracks, bent, discoloration because of extreme heat, and excessive wear, do not use it.
- If you use a cracked cutter blade, broken pieces of the blade may fly away.
- The hedge trimmer is faulty when the engine is idling by returning the throttle but the cutter blade keeps moving. Stop the engine immediately and idle speed adjustment must be made. Consult your authorized Honda dealer.
- Keep all nuts, bolts and screws tight to be sure the hedge trimmer is in safe working condition. Regular maintenance is an essential aid to user's safety and retaining a high level of performance.

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- Do not use the hedge trimmer with worn or damaged parts. Parts must be replaced, or repaired. Replace worn or damaged parts with Honda genuine parts. Non-equivalent quality parts may damage the machine and be prejudicial to your safety.
- Hold the hedge trimmer firmly with both your hands during operation to keep the trimmer under control at all times.
- Trim a hedge with the cutter blade facing outward.
- Do not turn the cutter blade or bring it closer to your body.
- Do not use the hedge trimmer, reaching out. Do not use it on a ladder, a table or other unstable places.
- Injury caused by vibration and cold:

You may feel the prickling or burning pain in your fingers, and the fingers may lose color and feeling depending on your constitution. It is believed that these symptoms are brought by vibration and/or exposure to cold.

The specific trigger point of these symptoms are not identified yet, but observe the following instructions.

- Limit the amount of time you spend operating the hedge trimmer in a day.
 - A day's work should consist of the work with the hedge trimmer and the other work without the hand-held equipment so you can limit the amount of time when your hands are exposed to the machine vibration.
 - Keep your body warm, especially your hands, wrists and arms.
 - Take your breaks at shorter intervals and arm exercises well to maintain good blood circulation. Do not smoke while working.
 - When you feel discomfort, redness and swelling of the fingers followed by whitening and loss of feeling, consult your doctor promptly.
- Injury caused by repeated operation:
Performing the repeated operation for a prolonged time may cause injury. Observe the following instructions to reduce the causes of the injury.
 - Avoid the repeated operation by using your wrist(s) in bent, stretched or twisted position.
 - Take your breaks regularly to minimize the effect of the repeated operation. Take your time when performing the repeated operation. Do not rush to operate the hedge trimmer.
 - When your fingers, hands, wrists and/or arms are throbbing or numbed, consult your doctor.

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Child Safety

- Keep children indoors and supervised at all times any outdoor power hedge trimmer is being used nearby. Young children move quickly and are attracted especially to the hedge trimmer and trimming activity.
- Never assume children will remain where you last saw them. Be alert and turn the hedge trimmer off if children enter the area.
- Children should never be allowed to operate the hedge trimmer, even under adult supervision.

Thrown Object Hazard

Objects hit by the operating cutter blade can be thrown from the hedge trimmer with great force, and may cause serious injury.

- Thoroughly inspect the area where the hedge trimmer is to be used and remove all objects (stones, branches, wires, bones, etc ...) which may be thrown by the operating cutter blade.

Fire and Burn Hazard

Gasoline is extremely flammable, and gasoline vapor can explode.

Use extreme care when handling gasoline. Keep gasoline out of reach of children.

- Store fuel in containers specifically designed for this purpose.
- Refuel outdoors only, and do not smoke while refueling or handling fuel.
- Add fuel before starting the engine. Never remove the cap of the fuel tank or add gasoline while the engine is running or when the engine is hot.
- If gasoline is spilled, do not attempt to start the engine but move the hedge trimmer away from the area of spillage and avoid creating any source of ignition until gasoline vapours have dissipated.
- Tighten all fuel tanks and container caps securely.
- When you start the engine after refueling, be sure to start the engine at least 3m (10ft.) away from the refueling spot.
- Never store the hedge trimmer with gasoline in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame, spark or high temperature source.
- Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosure.
- To reduce the fire hazard, keep the hedge trimmer, especially the engine, muffler, the gasoline storage area as well, free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease. Do not leave containers of vegetable matters in or near a building.
- If the fuel tank has to be drained, this should be done outdoors, with a cold engine.

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Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Hazard

Exhaust contains poisonous carbon monoxide, a colorless and odorless gas. Breathing exhaust can cause loss of consciousness and may lead to death.

- If you run the engine in an area that is confined or even partially enclosed, the air you breathe could contain a dangerous amount of exhaust gas.
- To keep exhaust gas from building up, provide adequate ventilation.
- Replace faulty muffler.
- Do not operate the engine in a confined space where dangerous carbon monoxide fumes can collect.