General Tips

Make sure that you are trained in the proper use of this equipment. Rotating cutting tools can throw objects or cut the operator.

- Read, understand, and follow instructions in the manufacturer's operating manual.
- Hold the unit firmly with both hands.
- Ensure that the cutting part is adjusted properly and is tight.
- Replace bent, warped, damaged or dull cutting apparatus.
- Check that the throttle springs back to idle position.
- Select equipment with anti-vibration components.

What clothing and gear should I wear when using this equipment?

Wear:

- sturdy and well-fitting overalls, jeans or long pants,
- heavy-duty, non-slip gloves,
- safety boots with non-slip soles,
- safety goggles, or face screen and safety glasses, and
- hearing protection (muffs or plugs).

How do I safely use grass trimmers and brush cutters?

Set-up:

- Make sure that shields, guards, and other safety devices are in place and working properly.
- Replace or tighten all loose or damaged parts or guards.
- Make sure muffler is in good condition. In dry weather, use a fire-safe muffler.
- Keep people away from starting and operating areas.
- Clear the work area of stones, glass, metal and debris.
- Refuel the engine before starting work while the engine is cool. If refuelling is required before the job is completed, wait for the engine to cool.

Operation:

- If using an electric grass trimmer follow applicable electrical safety procedures described in the document, "Powered Hand Tools - Basic Safety for Electric Tools".
- Start the unit on firm ground or other solid surfaces in an open area.
- Maintain good balance and a secure footing when operating.
House Safety Key

with Using Grass Trimmers, Brush Cutters and Leaf Blower

- Adjust harness and hand grip to suit work positions.
- Use unit at ground level only.
- Shut off engine before cleaning out clogged or stuck cutter.
- Stop the engine before putting cutter down.
- Disconnect the spark plug when the equipment is left unattended.
- Secure cutter to prevent fuel spillage and damage during transport.
- Keep the cutter tool covered with the carrying guard.

What should I avoid when using this equipment?

- Do not leave running tool unattended.
- Do not wear short pants or short sleeves.
- Do not use rigid blades in stony areas.
- Do not overreach. Keep proper footing and balance at all times.
- Do not repair damaged attachments - discard them.

What are some tips when using leaf blowers?

Leaf blowers can throw objects which can be hazardous to both the operator and others.

- Always plan your work before using a leaf blower. Clear the area of all people, pets and objects from around your work area (have a safety circle of approximately 10 metres or 30 feet around you).
- Always wear eye protection when operating a leaf blower – even small stones can blind a person.
- Hearing protection is recommended.
- Always wear a mask in dusty or dirty areas, or where dampness and decay may have created conditions for mould growth. Mould spores are an inhalation hazard.
- Always start and run the unit in an upright position.
- Never operate the blower without the tubing.
- Always direct the debris away from people, animals, glass and solid objects that could cause the debris to rebound or ricochet.
- Never use the blower to spread or mist chemicals, fertilizers or other toxic substances.
- Never use the blower from ladders, trees, rooftops or other unstable surfaces.